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No. 203

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dr. Yancey C. Arrington, Clear Creek Community Church, League City, Texas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, high and mighty King of kings and Lord of lords, who from Your throne reign with power supreme and uncontrolled over all kingdoms, empires, and governments; look down in mercy, we implore You, on this, our country, the United States of America, and upon this body who have been given charge of governance.

May they overcome appeals tempting them to rule in favor of the oppressor over the oppressed, the wicked over the righteous, and the guilty over the innocent; on the contrary, knowing that "the Lord," Yahweh, "the most high God, is to be feared, a great king over all the Earth," and that, "God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne," may these honorable men and women "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with" Your lordship in the wise and peaceful exercise of their duties.

All of this, we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Your Son and the Savior.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DESJARLAIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. YANCEY C. ARRINGTON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, what a joy and honor it is to hear the voice of my older brother leading the people's House in prayer this morning, continuing the sacred tradition since 1789 of calling on Almighty God to consecrate our service for the good of the American people.

Dr. Yancey Cook Arrington is an eighth-generation Texan who, for over 25 years, has served as the teaching pastor at Clear Creek Community Church in the bay area of Houston.

He is joined today in the Chamber gallery by his lovely wife, Jennefer. They are proud parents of my three nephews, Thatcher, Haddon, and Beckett.

Mr. Speaker, I am eternally grateful for my brother's spiritual influence over the years and have always been inspired by his unwavering devotion to God's Word, to God's people, and to God's only begotten Son, Jesus, our Lord.

Thanks be to God for men like Yancey, pastors and preachers throughout these United States, who have dedicated their lives to reminding us that America is great because God is good, and only—and only—if we continue to trust in Him, the sovereign and eternal source of that goodness, will America continue to be great.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Mr. Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections with the Tennessee Office of the Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special General Election held on December 2, 2025, the Honorable Matt Van Epps was elected Representative to Congress for the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.

TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE,
TRE HARGETT,
Nashville, Tennessee, December 3, 2025.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: Per your request, the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, for Representative in Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee, are as follows:

Matt Van Epps, 96,988.
Aftyn Behn, 81,044.
Jon Thorp, 932.
Teresa "Terri" Christie, 610.
Bobby Dodge, 196.
Robert James Sutherby, 129.

Your office has asked if we know of any contest of election. As of 1:00 p.m. Central on the date of this letter, we are not aware of one.

As soon as the official results are certified, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

MARK GOINS,
Coordinator of Elections.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5029

□ 0910

**SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE
MATT VAN EPPS, OF TEN-
NESSEE, AS A MEMBER OF THE
HOUSE**

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Tennessee, the Honorable Matt Van Epps, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Tennessee delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. VAN EPPS appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 119th Congress.

**WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
MATT VAN EPPS TO THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES**

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with our Republican colleagues, including Mr. FLEISCHMANN, who joins me as the dean of our Republican delegation, to welcome our new colleague to the House.

MATT VAN EPPS brings a great personal story to us here in the Congress. He is a West Point graduate and a lieutenant colonel, and he has a distinguished record of combat service as a helicopter pilot and mission commander.

He is a proven leader with government experience as a member of Governor Bill Lee's Cabinet, serving as the commissioner of the Department of General Services for the State of Tennessee, managing the day-to-day operations of just about every aspect of Tennessee State government.

Most importantly, he is a husband and father, titles much more important than the one he will soon have as Congressman. We are also happy that Meg and Emilia are here, as well as so many

other family and friends joining him on this momentous occasion.

MATT has lived his life to the values of duty, honor, and country, and I know that he will carry those values into the Congress. We are excited to have him working with us, and I know so many in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle will also appreciate and enjoy serving with him, as well.

MATT, let me quickly interject here. This institution is built on debate, and as every Member in this Chamber can tell you, we don't always agree on things. MATT, let me give you your first chance at providing a rebuttal. As the father of a Naval Academy graduate, we have a pretty important game coming up, so I will simply say: Go Navy, beat Army.

Mr. Speaker, I now welcome and yield to the gentleman from Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District, Congressman MATT VAN EPPS, for his response.

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today humbled by the trust the people of Tennessee's Seventh District have placed in me.

I come to this distinguished body as a Christian, a husband and father, and an Army Special Operations helicopter pilot with nine combat tours, who has seen firsthand what makes this Nation exceptional.

America's strength comes from our enduring belief that freedom is worth fighting for and from our commitment to protect and empower the hard-working families who make the American Dream possible.

My commitment is simple: Lower prices for Tennesseans, bring down healthcare costs, protect communities, and restore American energy independence and economic strength.

I will work every day with President Trump and my colleagues in this House to deliver on the America First agenda.

Our constituents are looking for results. The people of Tennessee didn't send me here to just give a speech. They sent me here to deliver, and that is exactly what I intend to do.

Today, we make history as this is the first time a West Point graduate will succeed another West Point graduate for the exact same congressional seat, so respectfully, sir: Go Army, beat Navy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Tennessee, the whole number of the House is now 433.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

**HONORING DR. YANCEY
ARRINGTON**

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to welcome our guest preacher here today, our guest chaplain, if you will, Dr. Yancey Arrington. Dr. Arrington serves as teaching pastor at Clear Creek Community Church.

Dr. Arrington is from my district, in my district, and does a great service in our district. He has a vibrant congregation under his tutelage. He is in the heart of Texas' 14th District. He is a devoted follower of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the righteous.

For decades, he has been a shepherd to families across our communities, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Dr. Arrington preaches about the Savior with conviction, clarity, and a heart firmly rooted in service.

I have known Dr. Arrington personally, and I can tell you he is the real deal, and I know that because his wife told me. His walk matches his talk. Whether he is teaching Scripture about Jesus, mentoring young leaders, or helping folks through some of life's hardest moments, he does it with humility and a steady faith that strengthens everyone around him.

He also happens to be the brother of my friend and Texas colleague, Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON, a true family known across Texas for their Christian leadership.

Mr. Speaker, we are so grateful to have Dr. Arrington open today's proceedings in prayer. May God continue to bless him; his bride, Jennefer; their three boys; and the great work being done at Clear Creek Community Church.

**SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE
APPRENTICESHIPS**

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bipartisan Fast Track Healthcare Apprenticeships Act, alongside my friend, Congressman MIKE KENNEDY from Utah.

Across the country, and especially in Texas, families are feeling the strain of a healthcare system that simply does not have enough trained professionals. Longer wait times, higher costs, and fewer options for care are symptoms of a workforce that is stretched far beyond its limits.

Our bill takes a commonsense approach to address the shortage. It streamlines and modernizes the healthcare apprenticeship approval process, requiring Federal and State labor agencies to act on the application within 45 days, and directs the Department of Labor to digitize and update

the apprenticeship agreement forms to make them more accessible.

These changes will help aspiring health workers get trained faster and step into good-paying, stable jobs. It will reduce barriers for employers, strengthen our workforce pipeline, and expand access to care in communities that desperately need it.

Our bipartisan bill supports workers and providers and helps ensure that every family can rely on a healthcare system that is accessible, affordable, and built to meet their needs.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

□ 0920

50th ANNIVERSARY OF IDEA, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, which mandated that every child with a disability in America should have access to a high-quality public education.

When Congress passed IDEA in 1975, it was a landmark step toward educational equity. It opened classroom doors to ensure that every child with a disability could grow, learn, and succeed at school. The legislation expanded opportunities for millions of students with disabilities, helping them reach their full potential.

Unfortunately, before 1975, students with disabilities had long been denied access to public education, but IDEA transformed the public school experience for students with disabilities and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to our students in this country. Thanks to IDEA, our education system is working to serve the needs of every student in America.

This important milestone shows how far we have come in educating students with disabilities, and the legacy of this landmark legislation means a brighter future for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DANIEL JAMES SULLIVAN, SR.

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel James Sullivan of Chicago, a veteran, a man of deep faith, and, above all, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Daniel served our country during the Korean war where his compassion stood out, once building a false-bottom delivery truck to secretly deliver bread to nuns at a nearby orphanage.

Daniel brought that same spirit to his family, his church, and his community. A loyal Chicagoan and a proud Chicago sports fan, nothing gave him more joy than the time he spent with his six grandchildren.

Of his six grandchildren, I had the pleasure of working with Catherine Flannery who interned in my Washington, D.C., office.

Mr. Speaker, we remember and honor Daniel Sullivan not just as a veteran but as the kind of American we should all aspire to be. May his memory be a blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARLIE TOMBRAS, JR.

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend and fellow east Tennessean, Charlie Tombras, Jr. Charlie passed away at 83 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Charlie was a Knoxville native. After high school, he continued his education at the University of Tennessee where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

After his time at UT, Charlie served his country by joining the Army and heading to Vietnam, becoming a decorated Army Ranger. After his service, he returned to Knoxville to work for his father, the legendary Charles P. Tombras, Sr., founder of the Tombras Group Advertising Agency.

Charlie demonstrated grit and dedication to advertising and pioneered campaigns for many of the world's most recognizable brands. Charlie also kick-started the process of establishing the Tombras School of Advertising and Public Relations at our beloved University of Tennessee in 2022.

In addition to his successful business ventures, Charlie was a great outdoorsman, holding records in marlin fly-fishing, sailfishing, and spearfishing, and loved to spend his spare time in the Smoky Mountains and the rivers of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie was a known all-American family man, who passed in the presence of his loved ones after a long battle with leukemia.

We love and miss him.

VENEZUELA BOAT STRIKES

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, commanding our Armed Forces and safeguarding our national security requires exemplary honor, experience, and loyalty to the Constitution.

Yet time and time again, the President and his Defense Secretary have proven themselves unfit. They have ordered dozens of illegal strikes on al-

leged drug boats in the Caribbean without congressional approval. This week, we have learned they likely committed war crimes by ordering a second strike targeting and killing survivors.

At the same time, President Trump is pardoning criminals like Juan Orlando Hernandez, the former President of Honduras who was convicted in a U.S. court for smuggling more than 500 tons of cocaine into our country and was sentenced to 45 years.

The President is also threatening violence against our very Members of Congress who simply reminded our military of their constitutional duty not to follow illegal orders. Most troubling, the President doesn't know how to lead, and he doesn't care.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my Republican colleagues, ask yourself: Is the President serious about stopping the flow of fentanyl?

No. He is deathly unserious.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

(Mr. FINSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program known as MARL.

Twenty-five years ago, MARL was founded with the goal of developing the skills of Minnesota's agriculture and rural leaders, connecting them with educational resources to build their influence and effectiveness at local, State, national, and international levels.

In the year 2000, the first MARL class was selected with the inaugural seminar held that November. Today, MARL is recognized throughout Minnesota as the leading agriculture and rural leadership development program.

The idea for MARL was sparked by a 2-year research and development project between Southwest Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota Extension, and the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

Since its creation, the MARL program has continued to grow throughout the past two-and-a-half decades, with some of Minnesota's well-respected leaders among its alumni.

Mr. Speaker, as a past board member of MARL, I am especially proud to recognize this outstanding program for its commitment to educating and training tomorrow's rural leaders for the past 25 years. I wish them many more years of success.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States Institute of Peace was created

by the Congress of the United States. It is in a beautiful building, and it served the function of trying to bring people together.

In February, President Trump issued an executive order dismantling the United States Institute of Peace. Subsequently, law enforcement removed the president of the United States Institute of Peace forcibly from his office, and then the Trump administration fired every employee and dismantled the office.

A district court has ruled that he acted improperly because the Congress created the United States Institute of Peace and the President didn't have the authority to dismantle it.

Today, I have learned that President Trump has had his name in massive letters put over the United States Institute of Peace calling it the Donald J. Trump Peace Institute, none of which is legal.

Will his ego stop staining this city by putting his name and his picture all over banners contemporaneous or similar to Teddy Roosevelt at the Department of Labor and others?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Randall Holstead, one of his secretaries.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE OVERSIGHT TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST TEACHINGS FOR OUR KIDS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 916, I call up the bill (H.R. 1069) to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1069

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids Act" or the "PROTECT Our Kids Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

(a) *PROHIBITION.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be made available under an applicable program to any elementary school or secondary school that—

(1) *has a partnership in effect with a cultural or language institute directly or indirectly fund-*

ed by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including a Confucius Institute;

(2) *operates a learning center directly or indirectly supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China (commonly referred to as a "Confucius Classroom"); or*

(3) *otherwise receives support from an individual or entity acting directly or indirectly on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, including support in the form of teaching materials, personnel, funds, or other resources.*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) *CONTRACTS MADE PRIOR TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—

(A) *WAIVER REQUEST SUBMISSION.*—In the case of an elementary school or a secondary school that is a party to a contract described in paragraph (2), the school timely shall submit to the Secretary a request for a waiver of the prohibition under subsection (a) that includes—

(i) *the complete and unredacted text of the contract, and if the contract is not in English, a translated copy of the text into English; and*

(ii) *a statement demonstrating that the contract is for the benefit of the school's mission and students and will promote the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States.*

(B) *WAIVER ISSUANCE.*—The Secretary, upon receipt of a request submitted under subparagraph (A), may issue a waiver to the school for a period beginning on the effective date specified in subsection (b) and ending the date on which the contract terminates.

(2) *CONTRACTS DESCRIBED.*—A contract is described in this paragraph if the contract—

(A) *takes effect before the date of the enactment of this Act;*

(B) *continues to be effective after the effective date specified in subsection (b); and*

(C) *relates to at least one of the circumstances described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a).*

(d) *NOTICE TO AFFECTED SCHOOLS.*—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide notice to elementary and secondary schools of the requirements of this section together with guidance for achieving compliance with such requirements.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *APPLICABLE PROGRAM.*—The term "applicable program" has the meaning given that term in section 400(c)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)(1)).

(2) *ESEA TERMS.*—The terms "elementary school", "secondary school", and "Secretary" have the meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1069.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1069. American classrooms are becoming battlegrounds for foreign influence. For years, my colleagues and I have sounded the alarm about adversaries exploiting our education system. Malign foreign entities like the Chinese Communist Party are working to undermine American values not just on college campuses but across our K-12 schools, as well. This is not only an attack on education and academic integrity, it is a threat to our national security.

□ 0930

Across U.S. colleges, the CCP established Confucius Institutes to push false narratives, whitewash history, and endear American students to the CCP while obscuring its brutal human rights abuses. However, these propaganda operations didn't stop at higher education. In K-12 schools, Confucius classrooms sprang up, aiming to shape the minds of our youngest learners.

At a 2023 Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education hearing, Defending Education highlighted a report exposing nearly two decades of CCP efforts to influence thousands of children. At one point, more than 500 schools hosted Confucius classrooms, many located on U.S. military bases. That is no coincidence. Those programs are a deliberate attempt to undermine American values and compromise our security.

That is why I proudly support H.R. 1069, the Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids, or the PROTECT Act, from Representative KEVIN HERN and Representative KEVIN KILEY. This legislation prohibits Federal funds from going to any school that also accepts funding from the Chinese Communist Party. It also sets a clear precedent: The U.S. will not allow a foreign regime to dictate what our children learn.

When schools accept CCP funding, they are effectively letting a totalitarian government decide their curriculum. In China, students are taught only what the Communist Party allows. America must never cede that authority. Confucius classrooms have never been reciprocated in China, where U.S.-style cultural exchanges on this scale are forbidden.

The CCP is not interested in genuine cultural exchange or open dialogue. Its goal is indoctrination, teaching students that China is benevolent, while erasing events like the Tiananmen Square massacre and ignoring the ongoing Uyghur genocide and other human rights abuses. By accepting CCP funding, schools shield students from the truth because the party does not want them to know it.

The PROTECT Act gives schools a clear choice: Federal funds or CCP funds, but not both. In the wake of years of learning loss and education decline, schools should focus on student achievement, not spreading foreign propaganda. Under the Trump administration's leadership, we are restoring focus to the education system, putting students first, and protecting them from authoritarian influences.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1069 to protect students, uphold American values, and safeguard our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 1069, the so-called PROTECT Our Kids Act. This bill would add a new stipulation that disqualifies public schools from receiving Federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act if the school receives contributions, materials, or other resources from China or an individual or entity acting directly or indirectly on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The bill gives no guidance on what "acting directly or indirectly on behalf of" means or how you are supposed to know and how a parent's contribution to a school program should be evaluated, and really, are you supposed to scrutinize all parents' contributions or just those from parents of Chinese-American students?

H.R. 1069 would specifically prohibit Federal funding for any school that operates the program sponsored by the Confucius Institutes or Confucius classrooms. It is worth noting that although there may have been a lot of programs in the past, right now there may be as few as five Confucius Institutes in this country serving K-12 students. The provisions of this bill will have to be administered not by those five school systems, but every school district—15,000 school districts—will have to administer the provisions of this bill.

As written, the bill would create significant administrative burdens to our schools and chill community investment in our children. For example, the bill would disqualify a school from receiving Federal funds by simply accepting donations from a Chinese immigrant if it turns out the immigrant is acting indirectly on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China. That is if you can find out.

The bill bestows upon the Secretary of Education the sole discretion of deciding if an individual is acting indirectly on behalf of the Chinese Government, the very department which the Trump administration is actively dismantling. Without any additional funding or dedicated help, schools would have to become investigators and determine if an individual who wanted to donate to the school or participate in

parents' contributions could possibly be tied to the Chinese Government. The justified fear of losing critical Federal funds would almost assuredly lead schools to eye any well-meaning donations skeptically, sowing distrust in our neighbors.

Now note, there is no limit to this level of funding. It doesn't say contributions over \$1,000 or over \$10,000. It is any contribution. It must be said that there is no credible evidence to support the claims that China is exerting any inappropriate or undue influence over America's K-12 public schools. Even the report from the group Parents Defending Education, which makes these allegations, offers speculation rather than verifiable incidents or actual influence.

However, even if we are able to verify that China poses a credible threat to our K-12 schools, this bill, as written, does nothing to actually address any national security threats. Instead, it seeks to punish schools for accepting educational materials or participating in cultural exchange programs. Actually, our schools would be the victims of the undue foreign influence, but instead of deterring the bad actors, the bill seeks to punish the victim and, in effect, punish our students. The bill is, therefore, poorly written, poorly tailored, misdirected, and ultimately counterproductive and not a targeted national security measure.

Similar to H.R. 1005 and H.R. 1049, which we considered yesterday, H.R. 1069, if passed, would force school districts already facing shortages of teachers, counselors, and support staff to divert critical time and resources from instruction to completing bureaucratic paperwork. This is the very definition of an unfunded mandate. It imposes obligations on 15,000 school systems without offering any capacity or funding to meet that obligation.

Lastly, we have to note that the Trump administration is in the process of trying to abolish the Department of Education, with key responsibilities being shifted to other agencies. We are left with a chaotic patchwork of authority and no one apparently left to actually administer the provisions of this bill.

For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I recommend a "no" vote on the bill and reserve the balance my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN), who is the common-sense bill sponsor as well as chair of the Republican Policy Committee.

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1069, the PROTECT Our Kids Act, and I urge my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to support this bill.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chinese Communist Party has been spreading its malign influence for over a decade. This initiative has one goal: to increase China's economic and political dominance over the United States and the world. Disguised as

harmless global infrastructure, transportation, and production networks, this global campaign is anything but harmless.

Education is one of the primary targets of the Belt and Road Initiative, and they are succeeding in their mission to indoctrinate American students with their Communist ideals.

□ 0940

Mr. Speaker, Chinese state media has even bragged about the success of Confucius Institutes and other educational initiatives in spreading the CCP's influence.

This doesn't stop at our college campuses. Right now, China is invading our K-12 schools through Confucius Classrooms. Over the last decade or more, the CCP has infiltrated our public education system, setting up Chinese language and cultural programs in primary and secondary schools.

Similar to the Confucius Institute model at our universities, China rapidly expanded these programs to over 1,000 established worldwide by 2017, with over 500 in the United States. In exchange, their contracts allow China to staff these programs, provide curriculum, and require teachers to sign contracts, ensuring they do not damage the national interests of China.

Make no mistake, this is not out of the kindness of their hearts. The CCP is not interested in helping American students learn Mandarin. They want to brainwash our children, plain and simple.

Since 2013, the authoritarian Government of the People's Republic of China has sent curriculum and PRC-trained teachers into hundreds of K-12 schools across America as an unofficial component of its global influence campaign.

Concern over the threat posed by Confucius Classrooms is not new. In 2020, Secretaries DeVos and Pompeo sent a letter to State education commissioners, outlining their concern with these types of programs and urging schools to consider the threat they may pose to academic freedom. The State Department found that approval from the PRC's Minister of Education is required when filling teaching positions associated with Confucius Classrooms.

Concerns over the threat posed by Confucius Classrooms are not always exclusive to the United States. In Australia, the New South Wales Department of Education ended the Confucius Classroom presence in public schools due to concerns of potential propaganda. They replaced the programs with Chinese language programs funded and managed solely by Australians.

Similarly, in 2019, the Canadian Province of New Brunswick initiated a two-stage removal of Confucius Institute-funded programs from elementary and middle schools—once again, due to the threat of Chinese propaganda.

The CCP has committed countless violations of human rights, and its authoritarian agenda is antithetical to

the democratic principles our country was founded on. Chinese propaganda has no place in our education system.

We have taken important steps toward mitigating Chinese influence at our American universities by cracking down on Confucius Institutes. Now that the Chinese Government has directed its attention toward our elementary and secondary schools, it is time we do the same and protect our children from the malign influence of the CCP.

The PROTECT Our Kids Act would prohibit Federal funding for any elementary or secondary school that continues to host a Confucius Classroom. Schools will be notified of these requirements and given guidance for how to comply.

To be clear, this legislation is only concerned with programs funded or supported by the CCP. Language programs in schools that do not partner with the CCP are not threatened by this legislation. The only objective is to prevent CCP propaganda from being taught to our kids. This should not be controversial.

Mr. Speaker, I will say it again: Protecting our kids from Chinese propaganda should not be controversial. I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Committee on Education and Workforce for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say, today, we are here considering a bill that is named the PROTECT Our Kids Act. I am going to speak and shift this conversation a little bit in the direction I think we really need to go.

This bill, the PROTECT Our Kids Act, does absolutely nothing to protect our kids. Just 5 days after three children and a 21-year-old were shot and killed in a mass shooting at a birthday party in Stockton, California, is a level of tone-deafness that I don't think I have seen during my 7 years here in Washington.

There are four families burying their children this week. There are four families burying their kids just like I had to when my son, Jordan, was murdered simply for playing loud music in his car.

Mr. Speaker, 8-year-old Journey Rose, 8-year-old Maya Lupian, and 14-year-old Amari Peterson will never get the experience that they deserve or the promise that this country offers. They will never get that chance—all because they went to a birthday party—and this Congress refuses to do anything about it time and time again. I don't know how many times I have to stand here on this floor to debate and talk about the number of children and people who are dying in this country.

We call this bill the PROTECT Our Kids Act? It does absolutely nothing. My Republican colleagues are deflecting over and over again against the

real crimes against our children. Today, they want to bring to this floor a bill that will do absolutely nothing to protect our children.

The real way to protect kids is to keep them safe from unnecessary gun violence. That is what we should be doing at this time, but my Republican colleagues refuse to say anything about protecting children from unnecessary gun violence.

Over and over again, I cannot say how many times—I meet families every single day. I get alerts from my staff every single day of every mass murder and every tragedy in this country. It is overwhelming.

Excuse me, but if we are going to sit here and talk about protecting our kids, if my colleagues are really willing to do that, then they should bring up gun violence prevention legislation. They should bring up policy that really does the very thing that they are pretending to do through this bill: Protect our children.

There is no greater threat to our kids in school, at church, at their birthday parties, or at any other private or public space across this country than gun violence.

We took a very important step with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. We did really good work, not just for Democratic children but for Republican children, as well, but we must do more to keep our children safe.

Shootings are the leading cause of death for children and teenagers in this country. Yes, my Republican colleagues have children and families who are dying by gun violence every single day, just like us here in the Democratic Party. We would never know that from this bill or when we are listening to our Republican colleagues.

For people like me, for people who have buried their son or their loved one, their daughter, their big sister, or their little brother before their time, we really know what is at stake. We cannot continue to play this game over and over again, fooling the American people by telling them that we are protecting their interests, protecting their families, and protecting their children with pieces of legislation like this that do absolutely nothing to protect our children.

Mr. Speaker, we know this cannot wait. I am just so sick and tired of the tone deafness. Every time we come to the floor, my Republican colleagues want to put forward a piece of legislation that fools the American people into believing that we are really working on their interests and on their behalf, when it really does not do that at all.

We know that the longer we do nothing, the more likely it is for someone else to have their family torn apart like I have or for someone else to attend a wake or a funeral instead of a wedding or a graduation ceremony. It doesn't have to be this way.

Mr. Speaker, I just—if we want to say it this way—celebrated the 12th an-

niversary of my son's murder. If my colleagues want to talk about protecting our kids, let's really do that and not this facade.

Mr. Speaker, unlike Columbine, Newtown, Las Vegas, Uvalde, Lewiston, and Stockton, your home does not have to be next.

Trust me, my colleagues. Every single one of us in this body has people dying every single day in our constituencies. We should use this time to really protect our kids and not just act like we are protecting them, while this Republican Congress does nothing about these tragedies at all.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, to my friend and colleague, I think she knows that I share her grief and cannot fathom the grief of the loss of her son, especially during the past 12 years.

Protecting kids is a multifaceted process. We are talking about just one aspect in our school systems today. That does not mean we disregard. We may have different approaches, but I certainly want my friend to know we hear her. I guess I will leave it there at this point.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY), the bill's co-lead, as well as the chair of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

□ 0950

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1069, the Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids Act, in order to protect our kids and to protect our country.

The Chinese Communist Party is responsible for severe human rights abuses and the suppression of fundamental freedoms, with a long and well-documented history of censorship, oppression, and disregard for human rights.

However, it is equally well understood that the CCP aggressively pushes its propaganda worldwide to reshape global narratives in its favor. That effort has extended into virtually every facet of American society, including, unfortunately, American classrooms.

Findings from the State Department have revealed that CCP-funded so-called Confucius classrooms have operated in over 500 K-12 schools across the United States.

Now, these programs are not about education. They are about influence. The CCP does not act with charitable intent. These programs exist because the CCP expects something in return: control over curriculum and influence over young minds.

It is unacceptable that American school districts have entered into financial arrangements with entities tied to the CCP, an adversary of the United States and a regime with one of the worst human rights records in the world.

The simple premise of this legislation is that no Federal tax dollars

should support schools that partner with the Chinese Communist Party. The PROTECT Our Kids Act puts that principle into law by ensuring that Federal education funds are not available to schools that collaborate with, receive funding from, or otherwise engage in agreements with the Government of the People's Republic of China. This includes partnerships with Confucius classrooms, language programs funded by the CCP, and instructional materials or personnel tied to the Chinese Government.

American education should teach American values, not communist propaganda.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and take a firm stand against foreign influence in our children's education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), who is vice chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1069, the PROTECT Our Kids Act. For far too long, American education has been undermined from within by actors who have taken advantage of our free and open society to advance the nefarious and anti-freedom objectives of the Chinese Communist Party.

Under the veneer of cultural and educational exchange, the CCP and operatives have restricted free speech, monitored Chinese students and faculty, and served as intelligence-gathering conduits on emerging American technologies.

These soft power tactics are part of a broader strategy to cultivate networks of communist influence, within the very institutions responsible for shaping the next generation of American patriots.

These subversive efforts are not limited to our universities. The CCP has even reached into elementary classrooms, cultivating favorable attitudes toward the Chinese Communist Party among young American students.

With passage of the PROTECT Our Kids Act, schools that refuse to confront this reality will no longer be eligible for Federal funds, full stop. The message is straightforward and simple to education administrators who don't understand the concept of American patriotism. This behavior will not be tolerated and no longer subsidized by the American taxpayers.

Under this Republican majority and this Trump administration, American education will be protected and renewed. Our classrooms will return to their rightful purpose: teaching and preserving our great American values.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), who is the chair

of the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1069, the PROTECT Our Kids Act.

The Chinese Communist Party is executing the most sophisticated global influence campaign of our time. They are not just targeting our military or U.S. companies. They are targeting our children.

One of the CCP's key tools is the Confucius classroom program. These programs are funded, staffed, and overseen by the Chinese Government, giving them direct influence over curriculum, teaching materials, and the content presented to American children.

We cannot allow an authoritarian regime that censors information, rewrites history, and silences dissent to have any role in American education. Our classrooms must remain places of learning; not foreign influence.

The PROTECT Our Kids Act sets a simple but necessary safeguard: If a school chooses to host a CCP-funded Confucius program, then it should not receive Federal taxpayer dollars. It is as simple as that. This bill upholds academic integrity, protects parents' rights over their child's schooling, counters communist propaganda, and strengthens our national security.

The CCP is playing the long game: influencing minds early and often. We must meet this challenge head-on.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand firm against foreign indoctrination in American schools.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, when you hear the title, PROTECT Our Kids Act, you wonder what this bill is all about. You might think it protects kids from guns, protects kids from bullying, or protects kids maybe from online predators; but no, this is from the foreign influence of China.

There is no credible evidence of any improper influence in K-12 schools, yet this is what the bill is about. It imposes sweeping penalties that do nothing to enhance national security. It only harms students. The apparent target of this legislation seems to be the maybe five school districts that have Confucius Institute programs, but it applies the provisions of the bill to 15,000 school systems in America.

All of this unfolds while the Trump administration works to dismantle the Department of Education, leaving critical responsibilities scattered throughout agencies. This bill wastes critical resources without any apparent benefit.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1069, the PROTECT Our Kids Act, makes clear that schools receiving funding from the Chinese Communist Party will not receive Federal dollars.

For too long, schools have turned a blind eye to the CCP's demands for fear of losing CCP money. However, every dollar came with strings attached: lessons glorifying tyranny, rewriting history, and indoctrinating students instead of teaching American values.

Even more concerning, many of these schools were near U.S. military bases, raising risks of monitoring and surveillance of personnel. This is unacceptable.

□ 1000

To protect our students and our national security, we must pass the PROTECT Our Kids Act. It helps prevent foreign adversaries from exploiting our classrooms and promotes education grounded in truth, freedom, and American values.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 916, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of H.R. 1069 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 1049.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 247, nays 164, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 313]

YEAS—247

Aderholt	Buchanan	Cuellar
Alford	Budzinski	Davidson (KS)
Allen	Burchett	Davidson
Amodei (NV)	Burlison	Davis (NC)
Arrington	Calvert	De La Cruz
Bacon	Cammack	DesJarlais
Baird	Carey	Diaz-Balart
Balderson	Carter (GA)	Donalds
Barr	Carter (TX)	Downing
Barrett	Case	Dunn (FL)
Baumgartner	Ciscomani	Edwards
Bean (FL)	Cline	Ellzey
Begich	Cloud	Emmer
Bentz	Clyde	Estes
Bergman	Cole	Evans (CO)
Bice	Collins	Ezell
Biggs (AZ)	Comer	Fallon
Biggs (SC)	Costa	Fedorchak
Bilirakis	Courtney	Feenstra
Boebert	Crane	Fine
Bost	Crank	Finstad
Brecheen	Crawford	Fischbach
Bresnahan	Crenshaw	Fitzgerald

Neguse	Ruiz	Thompson (CA)
Norcross	Salinas	Thompson (MS)
Ocasio-Cortez	Sánchez	Titus
Olshewski	Schakowsky	Tlaib
Omar	Schneider	Tokuda
Pelosi	Scott (VA)	Tonko
Perez	Scott, David	Torres (CA)
Peters	Sewell	Torres (NY)
Pingree	Sherman	Trahan
Pocan	Simon	Underwood
Pou	Smith (WA)	Vargas
Pressley	Stansbury	Walkinshaw
Quigley	Strickland	Wasserman
Ramirez	Subramanyam	Schultz
Randall	Suozi	Waters
Raskin	Sykes	Watson Coleman
Rivas	Takano	Williams (GA)
Ross	Thanedar	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—20

Ansari	Greene (GA)	Norman
Babin	Jackson (TX)	Pallone
Casar	Keating	Pettersen
Crockett	Mace	Scanlon
Espallat	Moulton	Swalwell
Frankel, Lois	Nadler	Velázquez
Garamendi	Newhouse	

□ 1034

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 314.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 313 and Roll Call No. 314. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 313 and YEA on Roll Call No. 314.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025, TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 3043), I have enclosed the National Security Strategy of the United States of America.

This National Security Strategy sets forth the guidance and direction for my Administration's foreign policy and details the goals and objectives that will deliver a new Golden Age for America.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 2, 2025.

□ 1040

CONGRATULATING CASCADE HIGH SCHOOL CADETS FOOTBALL TEAM

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Indiana High School Athletic Association 3A football State champions, the Cascade Cadets.

The Cascade High School football team triumphed over Fort Wayne Luers with a 29-14 victory, securing the first football State championship in the school's history.

These outstanding athletes played their hardest at Lucas Oil Stadium on Friday. The Cascade Cadets secured a commanding lead in the first quarter and remained dominant throughout the game, ultimately emerging victorious.

I congratulate these outstanding student athletes on winning the State championship, a fitting way to end their perfect season. The students on Cascade's football team should be extraordinarily proud of their tireless efforts and dedication. I know this win means so much to everyone in the Clayton community who was cheering them on to victory.

Congratulations, again, to the Cascade Cadets on this historic championship.

OUR FARMERS NEED RELIEF

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our farmers are the heart and soul of eastern North Carolina. They wake up before the sun rises, working hard to put food on the tables across this country and to keep our local economy strong.

Right now they are facing real and growing pressure. Tariffs are hitting many of our farmers hard. Costs are climbing, markets are shifting, and it is getting harder and harder for them to make ends meet. It is as if they are fighting with one hand tied behind their backs, and they can't keep taking it under the chin.

We can't sit back and watch our farm families, who feed this country, get pushed to the brink. Their livelihoods are hanging in the balance, and they deserve more than words. They deserve action.

We need fair, balanced trade policies that strengthen our agricultural communities so our farmers can thrive and not just survive. We must not sit back,

but that means we need tariff-relief assistance so our farmers can stay open and our rural economy can be strong.

Our farmers have always had our backs. We must have their backs.

MAKING HOMES AFFORDABLE

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, while I am happy to say that Indiana is one of the most affordable States for homeownership in the country, I know the dream of owning a home is still far off for many Hoosiers.

We have a serious housing shortage in this country. A key reason for this is outdated and obstructive government regulations that prevent and delay new construction. That is why I introduced the bipartisan Streamlining Rural Housing Act.

This bill would require HUD and USDA to develop a joint environmental review process for rural housing projects, cutting red tape and making rural housing easier to build.

If we are to help more Americans achieve the dream of homeownership, we must make it easier to build new homes. That means getting government out of the way and allowing developers to build faster and at a lower cost.

I look forward to continuing my work to make homes affordable for Hoosiers and remain committed to addressing the housing shortage in this country.

VICENTE VENTURA AGUILAR DISAPPEARANCE

(Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, my constituent, Vicente Ventura Aguilar, was snatched off the street by Federal immigration agents.

According to a friend who was detained alongside him, Vicente was last seen on October 8 when he suffered a medical emergency and was separated from the group to receive care. Today, he is nowhere to be found. He has been missing for 8 weeks.

Homeland Security claims he was never in their custody despite multiple credible eyewitnesses who say otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, Vicente has lived in the United States for 17 years. He is not a criminal. He has a family that loves him and is now desperately searching for answers about his well-being and whereabouts. We should not have to chase down Homeland Security, call hospitals, or even the morgue just to get them.

This is not about immigration status. This is about humanity. The United States cannot simply disappear

people. If this can happen to Vicente Ventura Aguilar, it can happen to anyone who calls this Nation home.

I demand answers on Vicente's disappearance, and I will not stop until I get them.

HONORING GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD

(Mr. NUNN of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of service and leadership of Terry E. Branstad, Iowa's longest serving Governor and America's Ambassador to China.

Terry was born and raised on a family farm near Leland, Iowa, where Governor Branstad lived the values that define the State of Iowa: hard work, faith, and service before self.

He carried those values from the fields of northern Iowa to the halls of government, where he helped shape a legacy that touched every corner of our State. In every corner of our State, he knows a story about an Iowa family and how he helped them.

When Terry first entered public service, he brought boundless energy and a deep sense of purpose. As a young candidate for Governor, he was known for literally running to the stage. His predecessor said that is not very Governor-like, but it was very Terry Branstad-like. It is something we have all tried to live in our lives going forward.

He went on to become the longest serving Governor in history, with 22 years of steady leadership. He served as U.S. Ambassador to China, advancing trade, advocating for human rights, and strengthening America's agriculture.

I had the honor of a lifetime of interning for Governor Branstad in 1995. His example of integrity, discipline, and humility is shaping who I am today. We are both Drake grads, military members, veterans, and committed to serving Iowa.

Governor Branstad and his wonderful wife, Chris, are more than just mentors. They are friends to every Iowan. He is a leader who helped build our State, and we are proud to call it home.

I congratulate Ambassador and Governor Branstad on receiving this year's Iowa Award. He more than earned it.

REMEMBERING JORDAN BALL

(Mr. SORENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the life of Jordan Ball, a Galesburg seventh grade history teacher and basketball coach, a former Monmouth-Roseville High School teacher, and a proud graduate of Monmouth College.

On Monday, he was involved in a bad car accident, and he lost his life at just 26 years old. Jordan leaves a loving wife, Alex, and young son, Atticus. His wife is also pregnant with their next child, who will be born with a guardian angel for a father.

I know how hard this has been for everyone in the tight-knit communities of Wataga, Galesburg, and Monmouth. His students revered him as a leader, and we should all move forward today with his legacy of working together as a team to achieve great things.

Western Illinois is better off today because Jordan Ball was there. May his memory live on with his students, his family, his community, and our Nation.

□ 1050

RECOGNIZING MENOMINEE MAROONS

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Menominee Maroons football team.

The Maroons proudly represented Michigan's First Congressional District and the Upper Peninsula by winning the Michigan Division 7 State championship, capping off a 14-0 season.

This wasn't luck. This was discipline, toughness, and outright superiority.

What makes this championship even more special is how the U.P. made it possible. With just days to prepare for the long trip to Ford Field, the Maroons suddenly needed tens of thousands of dollars for buses, lodging, and meals. Our Yoopers stepped up, raising nearly \$30,000 in a matter of days with the entire community pulling together because they believed in this team.

Coach Brandt restored U.P. Power to Michigan high school football, bringing home the first State title to the Upper Peninsula since 2015. As Coach Brandt said: "We couldn't be here without our town and community."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Menominee Maroons for bringing the State championship back to the U.P. The undefeated State champions are a true source of pride for our Yooper community. I congratulate the Maroons. Well done.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO ANTI-EDUCATION AGENDA

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the anti-education agenda of the Trump administration.

The Department of Education's RISE Committee is offering a proposal to downgrade the professional status of various careers that they think, after

many years, don't deserve academic stature and access to vital funding. These include nursing, physical therapy, audiology, architecture, and social work.

This assessment comes from the leader of the Department of Education, who has no advanced degree in education but does know a lot about pro wrestling.

I was the chief executive officer of a government for over 1 million people, with a budget of \$2.5 billion and 4,200 employees. These Secretaries and committees can theorize all they want. I needed professional, well-trained, and certified nurses, social workers, and the like to deliver real-world services to real people in the day-to-day management of a large county.

Let's stop the ideological foolishness. Place this proposal to downgrade careers where it belongs: in the department of garbage and sanitation. Let's get back to grownup, serious government that understands the problems in America and addresses those problems.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN ATENCIO

(Mr. BURLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Kathleen Atencio, a beloved wife and mother who passed away peacefully at her home after her courageous fight with brain cancer.

Born and raised in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, Kathy lived a life defined by her service and dedication to her faith, family, and friends. Her family knew her as someone who was extraordinarily accomplished, humble, and intelligent. She lived her life by the quote often attributed to Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Everybody who was part of Kathy's life—family and friends—was made a better person by her. Kathy had a gift for making others feel seen, supported, and loved. Whether offering a prayer, a home-cooked meal, or a steady voice of encouragement, she made people better simply by being in their lives.

A rich life and a storied legacy, Kathy leaves behind her husband, Joe, and her children, Audrey and August. May she rest in peace.

HOLDING WAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. BALINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, the Uniform Code of Military Justice is clear. It requires servicemembers to obey lawful orders and to refuse illegal orders.

We can't order a servicemember to commit a crime. It is that simple. If someone is a servicemember, he can't follow an order that requires him to commit a crime.

Recently, my Democratic colleagues merely reminded our servicemembers of their lawful duty. The President's reaction was that these Democratic Members of Congress were traitors and should be hanged.

Fast-forward to last week, when we learned that Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the illegal killing of defenseless survivors of an attack on a boat in the Caribbean. This is what our colleagues were warning about.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Hegseth and anyone else who commits war crimes must be held accountable. Secretary Hegseth has to go.

HONORING NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, in Pooler, Georgia, which was named Best Museum in Georgia in the 2025 Best of Georgia Awards.

This honor reflects the museum's significance as a leading institution for historical education in our State. The museum preserves the legacy of the Mighty Eighth Air Force and teaches the history of World War II aviation through exhibits, artifacts, and educational programming.

Visitors can explore restored aircraft and walk through immersive spaces that allow them to connect with the people who served. Many leave with a deeper appreciation for sacrifice, duty, and the responsibility we all share to remember their stories.

I am proud of Pooler for keeping this history alive and accessible. I congratulate the museum, which holds a special place for me, as it was established during my time as mayor. In fact, it was the first speech I gave as mayor of the city of Pooler.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff, veterans, and volunteers for their important work.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF BRIAN LAYTON

(Mr. VINDMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Chief Brian Layton on his retirement from the Fredericksburg Police Department after three decades of service.

Chief Layton has served in the department since 1994 and as chief since January 2020. He has strengthened department recruitment and retention, modernized their operations, and is ex-

pected to soon achieve national accreditation for the city's emergency 911 center.

The role that Chief Layton has played in regional public safety is invaluable. On behalf of the city of Fredericksburg and its residents, I extend our deepest gratitude to Chief Layton for his unwavering service and dedication. His impact on our community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Chief Layton on this well-earned moment and recognize him as this week's constituent of the week. I wish him a restful retirement.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF NORAD'S SANTA TRACKER

(Mr. CRANK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the upcoming 70th annual tracking of Santa Claus by the North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Space Force Base in my district in Colorado Springs.

Originally tracked by the Continental Air Defense Command, which is now known as NORAD, the command tracks Santa on his sleigh, pulled by nine reindeer, including their leader, Rudolph, as he travels around the world to give gifts to all the children on Santa's nice list.

I encourage every family to track Santa on the NORAD Tracks Santa website this upcoming Christmas Eve and to keep a watchful eye on the skies for Santa as he passes overhead, bearing gifts for all those good kids.

Mr. Speaker, to all the children, even some who may serve in Congress, I would say it is an exciting time of the year. Look up in the sky on Christmas Eve and track Santa on the NORAD Tracks Santa website.

□ 1100

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RHODE ISLAND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID CHENEVERT

(Mr. AMO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Rhode Island Manufacturers Association Executive Director David Chenevert.

David is retiring after more than a decade, leaving our State's leading manufacturing organization. For more than 40 years, David has worked tirelessly to strengthen Rhode Island's manufacturing sector. He hasn't just been the president. He has been a member. David built a successful company providing precision components for multiple markets.

During his tenure at RIMA, he championed workforce development through the expansion of career and technical education for our students and helped countless small businesses transition to the future.

At the height of COVID, he helped the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation create the pledge program to deliver personal protective equipment to manufacturers so that they could remain open and operate safely.

David's hard work and strategic vision leave a legacy of growth for an essential part of Rhode Island's economy, our manufacturing strength.

Mr. Speaker, we thank David for his efforts.

RECOGNIZING ALBERT EINSTEIN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR FELLOW VEENA BLACK

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Veena Black, an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow, a dedicated elementary schoolteacher for over 20 years, and a personal friend who has served our office with exceptional commitment this past year.

Veena was selected amongst a highly competitive group of peers to come to Washington to better understand the legislative process and to improve STEM education in the United States.

For 1 year, she has not only stepped away from the classroom and her beloved students, but, as a devoted wife and exceptional mother, she also left behind her husband, Gabe, and their two children: Aidan and Sydney.

Veena's passion for STEM education and her students was unmistakable and contagious. Her kindness and the time she gave to everyone who stepped into our office enriched our team. She was the dependable, welcoming smile that greeted us each day.

Her time in our office was impactful and memorable, and it permanently deepened my understanding of what it means to teach in America today. I came to rely on her invaluable insight as an award-winning educator. Her hard-earned classroom experience directly shaped our education policy work, giving us a clearer understanding of how Federal decisions truly affect teachers and students.

While we dearly miss Mrs. Black in our Cannon office, I am grateful that she returned to the place where her impact is greatest and most needed which is in the classroom.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN RETIREMENTS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy retirement to so many of our House Republican colleagues who are leaving in a mass exodus, with more departures to come, according to Jake Sherman. That is despite all the accomplishments Republicans have tried to sell to the American people.

Let's recap what they have done this year alone.

They cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, putting affordable healthcare out of reach for millions of Americans.

They passed the largest cut to SNAP in history, leaving families across the country with less access to food.

They have stayed silent while ICE terrorizes our communities, causing irreparable damage, and even detaining U.S. citizens.

So instead of running for reelection on their disastrous record, they are choosing to walk away.

And House Democrats? House Democrats are ready to take on these challenges and fight for all Americans.

We are ready to make our country more affordable, fix our broken immigration system, and deliver a government that works for the people.

That is exactly what we will do when we take back the majority next Congress, if not sooner.

NEW BUZZWORD IS AFFORDABILITY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, here it is, the word "affordability." It has become a cute buzzword nowadays because during the last 4 years of the Biden administration and in my home State of California, so many things have caused things to become unaffordable.

So the idea is going to be to paper over with borrowed money in this place when, really, if we attack the core issues that make things unaffordable, cause inflation and an inability to start businesses in my home State and in this country, which is energy costs, electricity and fuel, especially in my home State in northern California. We have the highest electricity everywhere.

As we see in the rest of the country, due to Trump's policies coming in, fuel prices are coming down. We are getting down to about the \$2 level.

In my home State of California, they are going to shut down, I hear, three refineries now and we can't keep a pipeline full. We have a new fuel standard which means more carbon has to be taken out of the fuel. That fuel will be more expensive. We are going to see, according to a USC study, perhaps \$8.50 fuel in California.

Yes, there is affordability for you right there, driven by Democrat policies and by regulation as well; profigate government spending, creating

\$2 trillion in deficits every year. It sucks all the money out of the room of other people needing to borrow and spend when the government is spending all the money handing out \$2,000 checks, \$1,200 checks, and \$600 checks, that is all borrowed money. There is no credit then.

There are also burdensome regulations weaponizing NEPA, weaponizing the Clean Air Act, and weaponizing the Endangered Species Act. These were all well-intentioned when they were passed, but they have been weaponized to stop projects and to stop people from doing things. That is what is causing affordability to be unaffordable is these regulations driven by more government.

CONGRESS HAS A DUTY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

(Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the duty we have to support our American communities in the face of disaster.

Mountain Maryland in my district was hit by devastating floods last May. In fact, 200 elementary students and teachers were evacuated from their classrooms by boat in heights of water which were over 12 feet.

When this disaster hit Maryland, emergency alerts and warnings were essential to a fast and safe recovery. I commend the effective and exemplary service of our first responders. However, what didn't come quickly was the Federal aid that my constituents needed most.

Today, I am introducing two bills to reinforce strong, reliable disaster response and recovery efforts.

First, the Emergency Alert Grant Fairness Act will ensure that local public broadcasters have the resources they need to reach everyone at risk during a disaster.

Second, a bipartisan Rural Recovery Act would guarantee that USDA Rural Development technical assistance is automatic in order to effectively help communities recover from a disaster.

From Mountain Maryland to every corner throughout America, we should leave no community stranded in an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of these bills.

CLEVELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. MOORE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cleveland Community College on the anniversary of its founding. Since July 1, 1965, when fewer than 40 students

gathered in two rented buildings, Cleveland Community College has grown into a cornerstone of progress and opportunity for Cleveland County and our region.

Cleveland Community College has always risen to meet the needs of our community, training returning veterans in its earliest days, and now preparing students for careers in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and others.

Thanks to strong leadership from the founding president, Dr. James Petty and the current president, Dr. Jason Hurst—and the presidents in between all those years—the college now boasts state-of-the-art centers for technology, emergency services, allied health, and workforce development, along with strong partnerships with local schools and businesses.

Today, it stands as one of North Carolina's highest performing community colleges. In fact, it is one of the highest performing community colleges in the country.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Cleveland Community College on its 60th anniversary.

CONDEMNING EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE OF FEDERAL AGENTS

(Mr. GOLDMAN of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the excessive violence that we are seeing from Federal immigration agents on the streets of Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and all across the country.

Donald Trump's militarized secret ICE agents are creating fear and terror around our country. Their lawless behavior has no place in our democracy, and I am proud to lead Democrats in fighting back.

That is why I introduced the No Secret Police Act to get rid of masks, to require agents to show identification, and to hold ICE accountable.

Soviet-style secret police have no place in the America I know and love.

According to ICE's own data, 70 percent of immigrants arrested have no criminal history whatsoever, and just 5 percent have violent criminal convictions.

Despite the lies that we hear coming out of the White House, ICE is meeting its quotas by targeting hardworking immigrants, many here lawfully, simply trying to pursue the American Dream.

The first and easiest step to correct this problem is to pass my No Secret Police Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to do so without delay.

□ 1110

PROTECTING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES FROM DATA CENTERS

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, 267 percent, that is how much energy prices increase in communities located near Big Tech data centers.

DTE Energy, in my State, already charges us some of the highest rates in the Nation with some of the most unreliable services.

Do you like clean water coming out of your taps at affordable prices? So do I. You better hope a data center doesn't get built near you.

Do you like breathing clean air and being outdoors? I do. Organize like hell to keep these extremely loud data centers and their emissions out of your community.

So, for more expensive utility bills, and increased air, water, light, and noise pollution, we get a lot more AI slop bullshit that nobody asked for.

The Silicon Valley billionaires don't care about our communities. Believe me when I tell you, all they care about is profit. They don't care that these data centers will absolutely make life miserable. All they care about is the money and the power.

I am so inspired by the grassroots movement in the State of Michigan right now popping up all over the State to protect our communities from data centers. I want them to know loud and clear, here in Congress, I have your back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RULLI). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the chair and to avoid profanity.

HONORING AFL-CIO'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with deep gratitude, I rise today to honor the AFL-CIO's 70th anniversary.

Seventy years ago, the AFL-CIO joined laborers with a bold vision: The dignity of a day's work must be matched by the dignity of a worker's life.

Their merger formed a promise: America would be stronger when working people stand together.

That promise is personal. Our mother was a proud union organizer. Her union badge, along with our father's, helped our family be more secure with union membership. It opened doors for opportunities we could only dream of as a working-class family: a living wage and the opportunity for more education, health insurance, and retirement benefits.

Today, let us honor the bold generations of workers who built our factories, powered our industries, cared for our ill, and advanced our communities.

As our Nation faces new challenges, from international outsourcing to corporate consolidation, we recommit ourselves to the fight for living-wage jobs, fair trade, and affordable health insur-

ance, and to passing the pro-worker protections in the PRO Act.

I thank the AFL-CIO for 70 years of solidarity, strength, and service to America's working families. Here is to 70 more.

CONGRATULATING WHITNEY POINT EAGLES AND WINDSOR BLACK KNIGHTS

(Mr. RILEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, New York's 19th Congressional District is home to not one but two championship field hockey teams.

The Whitney Point Eagles just won their fifth straight State title. That is 10 championships in the last 11 years.

The Eagles earned this one with a perfectly executed corner in overtime. That is the kind of composure under pressure that you only get from hard work, discipline, and a great coach like Nicole Huston.

The Windsor Black Knights just brought home their first State championship.

The thing I love about this team is how tight-knit they are. During a post-game interview, Abby Guarino said the things she will remember the most wasn't raising the trophy after the game; it was the bonds she built with her teammates.

We are so proud of these young women from Whitney Point and Windsor. They represent the very best of our rural communities, and they have set an example for the next generation of what you can accomplish when you give it your all.

Go Eagles, and go Black Knights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the names of each player on these championship teams.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Nicole Huston
Abby Guarino

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER VIOLA FLETCHER

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mother Viola Ford Fletcher. She was a living monument to truth-telling and righteous resistance, a steward of Black history and cultural preservation.

At 111 years old, she carried within her the memories of one of our Nation's darkest chapters, the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, and she bore these memories with unmatched grace and courage.

Mother Fletcher refused to let this Nation look away. She traveled the

world demanding justice, not just for herself or her family, but for Greenwood, for the generations robbed of life and prosperity.

When she testified in this very institution, her voice shook the Halls of Congress and the conscience of our Nation.

Mother Fletcher's passing is a profound loss, but her legacy is a call to continue to fight for full reparations.

May we honor her transition to ancestor by moving in her spirit with unyielding hope, moral clarity, and faith that justice, though delayed, is not denied.

CONGRATULATING ECO-CLEAN SOLUTIONS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. KILEY of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate JB Harris, JT Chevallier, and the entire team at ECO-CLEAN Solutions for reaching a record-breaking milestone late last year: 1 million square feet of Lake Tahoe shoreline cleaned by the team's beach-cleaning robot, BEBOT.

JB and JT, two longtime friends from Las Vegas, were drawn to the Sierra Nevada by the beauty and lifestyle of the mountains. As their connection to the area and the great outdoors deepened, JB and JT witnessed the toll of increased tourism on their natural surroundings.

With the motivation to give back to the home that had given them so much, ECO-CLEAN was created to respond to the need for environmental responsibility and sustainability.

With the annual number of visitors to Lake Tahoe growing to 15 million people, Tahoe's beaches experienced a surge in waste, particularly during peak travel seasons. JB and JT recognized the problem and set out to find innovative and low-impact solutions to this growing concern.

In their search, the team discovered BEBOT, the first battery- and solar-powered beach-cleaning robot on the West Coast. Through funding provided by the North Tahoe Community Alliance, the team was able to successfully deploy BEBOT to the shores of Lake Tahoe, maximizing beach cleanup efforts through advanced technology and in partnership with local volunteers.

Through this innovative solution, ECO-CLEAN Solutions and their beach-cleaning BEBOT have cleaned more than 1 million square miles of shoreline, picking up over 38,000 pieces of litter that may have become pollution in Lake Tahoe.

In comparison to visible litter items collected by volunteers, BEBOTs detect and remove up to 10 times the number of items hidden under the surface of the sand.

They also partner and collaborate with several local organizations, one of

which includes the Desert Research Institute, which analyzes the litter taken from the lake to better understand pollutants and proactively address their source.

It is an honor to represent exemplary businesses such as ECO-CLEAN Solutions in the United States House of Representatives. They exemplify how American innovation can serve as a solution to the issues that are facing our communities and the Nation at large.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize JB, JT, and ECO-CLEAN Solutions for reaching this significant milestone and for their ongoing dedication to protecting the beauty of Lake Tahoe's shorelines for generations to come.

□ 1120

RECOGNIZING SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY
DISTRICT ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and commemorate the 75-year anniversary of the South Tahoe Public Utility District, a trusted steward of environmental protection and sustainable water management in the Tahoe community.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District was formed in the 1950s to protect the ecosystem of the Lake Tahoe Basin while furnishing customers with reliable water and wastewater treatment services. Since then, they have grown into a nationally recognized utility that exemplifies innovation, resilience, and exceptionalism in public service.

The district supplies quality drinking water and provides reliable wastewater collection, treatment, and export services to over 14,000 residents and 660 commercial and government sites. Their services play a significant role in the function of the region and have improved the quality of life and experiences for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Over the span of more than seven decades, the South Tahoe Public Utility District has achieved a wide diversity of accomplishments, including building the world's first advanced wastewater treatment plant, bringing high-quality Tahoe tap to the community, earning national recognition as the Environmental Protection Agency's Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year, and becoming a 100 percent recycled wastewater operation, just to name a few.

These successes reflect the district's deep commitment to protecting Lake Tahoe's environment, ensuring the sustainability of its water resources, and fostering community engagement.

Throughout its history, the South Tahoe Public Utility District has faced and overcome many unique challenges. During droughts, wildfires, and even a global pandemic, the district did not falter in its mission. In moments of crisis, such as the Angora, Tamarack, and Caldor fires, the district's personnel displayed courage and determination, standing shoulder to shoulder with

firefighters under hazardous conditions and evacuation orders to continuously maintain water flow and wastewater treatment.

For three-quarters of a century, the South Tahoe Public Utility District has established a legacy of efficiency, professionalism, and excellence. I have no doubt that that legacy will only continue to grow in the years to come.

It has been a privilege to work alongside the South Tahoe Public Utility District throughout my tenure as Tahoe's Representative in Congress. Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives and California's Third Congressional District, I am proud to celebrate this milestone and to commend the South Tahoe Public Utility District for their 75 years of unwavering dedication to the region and to the protection of a national treasure that is Lake Tahoe.

RESTORATION OF HEALTHCARE TAX CREDITS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge prompt action on a matter that could make life a lot more difficult for millions and millions of people in this country, and that is the expiration of tax credits that could lead to a massive increase in healthcare costs.

We are talking about 22 million Americans who will be directly affected, some of them seeing thousands and thousands of dollars in increases in their healthcare costs. That is something that a lot of these folks simply cannot afford.

Mr. Speaker, that is the reality of what will happen if Congress does nothing and if Congress fails to act. Since that is not acceptable to me—and I know it is not acceptable to a lot of Members on both sides of the aisle—I have introduced bipartisan legislation with SAM LICCARDO called the Fix It Act, which will stop this cliff from occurring and will spare these Americans this massive increase in healthcare costs.

Here is what it does: It extends these tax credits for a temporary period of time, for 2 years. That will give us the runway that we need to work on a broader solution to the healthcare affordability crisis in America without forcing millions of Americans to pay the price in the meantime.

Mr. Speaker, importantly, our bill not only provides this temporary extension, but it also includes reforms that pay for themselves. In other words, the savings that we get through our reforms are actually greater than the cost of the extension itself. This is according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which analyzed several proposals that are out there and found that the bill that SAM LICCARDO and I have introduced is the only one that actually does not increase the deficit and, indeed, actually achieves savings for taxpayers.

We do this with sensible cost controls, income caps, to make sure that the tax credits go to those who truly need it. You will still be eligible as

long as you are a family of four with an income level up to \$192,000.

It also includes strong antifraud measures that will save billions of dollars from the fraud that we know is far too pervasive in this program. It enacts reforms to a program called Medicare Advantage that are supported by the AARP because we have seen that insurers have been overcharging in this program to the tune of tens of billions of dollars over the course of a decade.

Mr. Speaker, all of those elements not only actually make it so that we are not increasing the deficit or having to raise taxes or increase spending with this extension, but they also make the extension inherently temporary in the sense that, if you have a pay-for, like we do, then any extension will need another pay-for that will entail additional tradeoffs. That is an accountability measure to make sure that this doesn't become just a never-ending series of extensions but truly is temporary.

Mr. Speaker, there are a growing number of Members in both parties—who we just had a press conference—who understand what is at stake here. It is not just, by the way, for 22 million Americans who will be directly impacted by utilizing the individual market and benefit from these tax credits, but if you see millions of people who ultimately choose not to get insurance and drop out of the market, that is going to cascade to the employer-provided market, as well. People are going to see increased costs there, as well.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about affordability, which is so important to so many people in this country right now, there is perhaps no single policy issue that will have a higher impact on affordability in this country than doing something about this issue right now.

For my colleagues on the Republican side, I simply point out this: When Members look at the 22 million Americans who will be most directly impacted, a lot of these folks are people who Republicans have been fighting for, for a long time. For example, independent contractors, freelancers, gig workers, and Uber drivers. They have been under attack from the likes of Gavin Newsom and the corrupt political class in Sacramento, who have targeted them and made it very difficult for them to practice their professions.

The Biden administration actually brought in Newsom's labor secretary, Julie Su, to try to do the same thing, targeting independent contractors on a national level. They are the folks who will perhaps suffer the most if these tax credits expire because they rely on that individual market, and they don't really have any other option. They will be forced to pay thousands and thousands of dollars more when their income is already uncertain.

We simply can't let that happen to them or small businesses. Small business owners' employees who rely on the individual market, this will absolutely be devastating to many of them if they are forced to shoulder this cost.

Early retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare, millions of them rely on these tax credits.

That is why I believe that doing nothing is not an option, and I have made no secret of the fact that I think the House of Representatives has been missing in action in a lot of ways in recent months.

The House was literally not here for a period of almost 2 months. The Speaker inexplicably canceled session for 6 consecutive weeks. The House has not been in the driver's seat when it comes to many important policy issues facing the country. The House has even chosen to cede some of its own legislative authority on certain issues. This is extremely troubling to me. I have been encouraging a change of course.

Mr. Speaker, this issue right now, which is a matter of urgency and needs to be dealt with before the end of the year, is an opportunity for the House to change course, to reclaim its legislative authority, to actually drive policy in the right way, and to become the people's House again by actually serving the American people in a way that will make a profound difference in the lives of many of them throughout the country.

□ 1130

CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present some truly bewildering and completely unacceptable news out of my State, the State of California. I have been very critical of government performance in our State, with giving taxpayers the services that they are paying for. This latest example makes that point very clearly.

For the last 6 or so years, Californians have been paying an extra fee on their phone service. This was due to legislation enacted by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. All of these fees were collected for the purpose of creating a next-generation 911 system, which, honestly, is something we need. The system is quite outdated, antiquated, and not up to the task of serving the many different kinds of emergencies that we get in California.

For the last 6 years, these extra fees paid for by California taxpayers, which are in addition to the State budget itself going up over 50 percent during that time period, were used to build out this new 911 system. The State spent \$450 million building out this 911 system.

Just last week, it was announced that after spending all of this money, the State is scrapping the entire project because the technology does not work. It is absolutely beyond belief. The \$450 million that Californians have been paying on their phone bill was absolutely, completely squandered, wasted by the State, which not only wasted all that money, but has now left Californians with an inadequate 911 system because they need to start over from square A.

This, Mr. Speaker, is an example of how the failures in Sacramento that have degraded the quality of life for people throughout our State are not a matter of Democrat versus Republican, but simply a matter of competence, of basic government performance, and of serving the people of our State as opposed to serving other agendas.

I hope that this latest debacle will be a wake-up call to demand the sort of accountability that our taxpayers are entitled to in California, and for the way the government in Sacramento is run to be completely revisited, to be reoriented in a way that is based on performance, that is based on competence, that draws upon the best practices of the private sector, and that ultimately is geared toward citizen service rather than the other interests and agendas that too often prevail at our capital.

CALLING FOR EDUCATION REFORMS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, for years, I have been warning about the declining education outcomes that exist across our country, but in particular, in my State of California. We just received a jarring reminder of just how bleak things have gotten.

UC San Diego, which is a rather selective school in California, has recently announced that a large share of its students can no longer even do basic math. The school announced that the number of students who require remedial courses has gone from 1 out of every 100 to 1 out of every 8.

This truly jarring state of affairs comes in spite of a massive increase in education funding in California. Indeed, since Governor Newsom came into office, the overall education budget has increased by almost \$40 billion. Yet, what is the outcome of that? We have students at a fairly selective university who can't do basic math, and, by the way, the State also has the highest illiteracy rate in the entire country.

I have advocated for reforms to our education system in California that would actually close achievement gaps and serve students. As chair of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee here in the House of Representatives, I have advocated for those reforms not just for our State, but on the national level, as well.

We have seen that when States and districts take a data-based approach to instruction, they can get tremendous results for students. We see examples like KIPP or Success Academy. These are charter networks that have vastly outperformed other public schools, despite serving students who are well below the poverty level in many cases.

If Success Academy were its own district, it would rank at the very top of the rankings in student performance in the State of New York, which is one of the reasons I am sponsoring the High-Quality Charter Schools Act that would make more opportunities like that available throughout the country.

We have also held hearings in my subcommittee on teaching literacy appropriately, which California is finally moving in that direction, teaching math appropriately, getting back to basics, utilizing education technology in the right way, without having students be exposed to excessive screen time. We have looked at school choice programs, including, most importantly, expanding charter schools. We have looked at the foundational importance of parental rights.

In California, unfortunately, we have an education system that is not about the kids. That is why we have among the highest achievement gaps in the country. That is why we have these jarring statistics that we are getting out of UC San Diego. That is why California had the longest school shutdown in the entire country during COVID-19.

I would hope that these latest numbers will serve as a wake-up call to enact the sort of education reforms that have worked well in other States because we are failing our students right now, and we are imperiling our State and, increasingly, our country's future.

CALIFORNIA BY THE NUMBERS

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that affordability and the cost of living are increasingly salient issues for many people in this country.

It is becoming harder for many people to get by, and there are many reasons for that. I have proposed, and in fact passed, legislation in a number of areas related to the cost of energy and the cost of healthcare to start to address those problems.

I was caught somewhat by surprise to hear the Governor of my own State of California commenting on this issue and even saying that no State matches California's success, that "the numbers speak for themselves."

I thought I would go through what some of those numbers are when it comes to the lack of affordability in the State of California. I think it offers insight into the steps that we could take nationally to make life more affordable for folks not only in California, but across the country.

The basic gist of it is to do exactly the opposite of what California has done. Newsom says the numbers speak for themselves. Here are the numbers:

California has the highest gas prices in the entire country, number one out of all 50 States. It is not even close. You can drive a few miles from here in Maryland, which is another blue State, by the way, and you will get gas for \$1.50, \$2 cheaper at least. You can go to Hawaii, which is an island State after all, and you will get gas for 20 cents cheaper than you do in California.

The cost of electricity: California is number one in the country. The New York Times recently published a map showing how much electricity rates have increased over the last several years, which tracks the time that Gavin Newsom became Governor. California saw by far the biggest increase

in electricity costs of any State in the country.

Water bills: California ranks first, or close to it, of any State in the country for how much we pay for water.

The cost of housing: California is number one in the country for the median cost of a home—actually, number one in the continental United States. Hawaii is a little more expensive there.

Taxes: California is number one, has the highest income tax rate of any State in the country, as well as the highest gas tax rate of any State in the country.

Government spending and debt are so much higher in California, and that relates to affordability as well because, of course, it means that we have to get more money in taxes and fees. It also means that the infrastructure that supports businesses is inadequate, which raises their cost of living, which results in higher costs to consumers, not to mention California being the worst business environment of any State in the country.

□ 1140

It has repeatedly been rated as having the worst litigation environment as well, which means that those costs are passed onto consumers, too.

Insurance: When it comes to fire insurance in many parts of our State, you pay more than you pay just about anywhere in the country because of the catastrophic fires that have done so much damage and because of the way the insurance issue itself has been mismanaged.

What is the lesson here?

Well, number one: The lesson is, California needs to change its own policies.

Number two: We can learn from California's failures as we enact reforms at the Federal level to improve the quality of life and affordability for folks throughout the country.

Gas: When it comes to gas prices, it is no mystery what has happened. California's taxes and regulations and insistence on special fuel blends have caused costs to go up inordinately. This, by the way, doesn't even factor in that we have two refineries that are about to close. Fortunately, we just passed legislation here in Congress to partially address this issue of the refineries. There is one study from USC that says that by the end of next year, Californians could pay \$8 for gas.

Electricity: California has passed all kinds of regulations that no other State has, at least not to the extent that restrict the supply of energy in our State. By the way, it is done ostensibly in the name of the environment, but California's policies have been incredibly damaging to the environment, as well.

In just 1 year, for example, the catastrophic wildfires that our State had erased all of the emissions reductions from the prior 16 years. In fact, it erased them two times over because of our State's very poor policies when it comes to forest management, which goes to the insurance issue, as well.

That is why I am very proud to sponsor the Fix Our Forests Act, which allows for more effective forest management which will stop catastrophic wildfires and will make it so we don't have to keep raising the price of insurance. That has passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support, and it is time for the Senate to pass it, as well.

Housing: When it comes to the cost of housing, we have seen how California has piled on fee after fee after fee so that a project costs tens of thousands of dollars before you even break ground. Even worse, we have seen how California has allowed frivolous lawsuits to delay projects for years and for decades. That all gets baked into the price of the home, and that is why I am sponsoring a number of measures here to try to make housing more affordable.

Of course, the tax issues speak for themselves.

We have a lot we need to do to continue to make life more affordable for Americans. We have seen some progress in certain areas when it comes to the price of gas across the country, when it comes to the supply of energy, and some other issues.

Unfortunately, people in my State are bearing the brunt of it. I would, again, encourage the leaders of our legislature and the Governor to chart a different course, to start actually working for the people of California.

This is why, by the way, we have the highest real poverty rate in the entire country. It is because the cost of living is so high and the economic opportunity is so low. We actually have the highest unemployment rate in California, as well. As the Governor would say, the numbers speak for themselves.

I encourage us here not only for those of us in California to encourage a change in action on the part of our State's own leadership but for Congress itself to follow the anti-Newsom playbook in making sure that we don't see costs across the entire country rise to the level they have in California.

SAFETY OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I will share some data that has recently been published on the safety of autonomous vehicles and self-driving cars, which have been widely deployed in a number of cities across the country.

In California, Waymo has been operating for years now in San Francisco and in Los Angeles, and now their footprint is actually about to expand to the wine country and even into the Sacramento area. They may even be coming to Washington, D.C., soon.

Tesla has a self-driving feature available on its cars as well and they have been publishing some very encouraging data. What the data shows, very clearly, is that even at the current state of the art that is going to continue to improve, autonomous vehicles are overwhelmingly safer than human-operated vehicles by a factor of about 10 when it comes to the risk of injury or death.

When you think about that, that means that being in an autonomous vehicle, in a self-driving car, is a much more effective safety intervention than wearing a seat belt, which, of course, you should continue to wear a seat belt as well.

There was an article in The New York Times a couple of days ago from a doctor who actually likened this to a clinical trial, where you actually have to stop the trial because the drug performed so well and it becomes unethical to continue to give people the placebo and not give them access to the drug.

We have 40,000 people who die in this country every year on our roads. Many, many others suffer serious life-changing injuries. Every American pretty much has been affected in some way, knows someone who has been involved in an accident, and we now have the technology within our reach to drastically reduce that number, to save tens of thousands of lives every year just in this country and to spare tens of thousands of people devastating injuries.

I do believe it is a political policy and a moral imperative to use whatever levers we have here to remove barriers to expanding access to this technology.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the administration as well as folks on both sides of the aisle to do that because we really do have an opportunity here to do an immense amount of good.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PRESIDENT TRUMP IS A THREAT TO OUR REPUBLIC

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHMIDT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GREEN for yielding and for his moral clarity and always for his leadership, especially during these deeply consequential times.

Mr. Speaker, every parent hopes that no harm, heartbreak, or hardship finds their child. We want our children, especially when they are babies, to know safety, warmth, full bellies, and a peaceful slumber.

When they are young, especially during the fall and winter months in the throes of cold and flu season, little ones carry raspy coughs and runny noses home from the playground. Dads

tuck their little ones in at night under a warm blanket hoping they will sleep okay.

They hold their babies to their chest and listen for the threat of labored breathing, wondering if they will have to make an ER run in the middle of the night. They whisper a prayer every parent of every faith knows: I hope my baby is okay.

But for parents in Gaza as the weather turns, heavy rainfall and freezing temperatures present new threats. Palestinian families have endured a genocidal campaign for years. Their homes have been reduced to rubble. Many have no warm jacket to wrap their child in or a dry blanket to tuck them under, and still they whisper the same prayer: I hope my baby is okay.

Mr. Speaker, in Gaza, children have been murdered as U.S. bombs deployed by the Israeli Army have rained down on civilians. Children have been murdered by sniper fire and starvation. Every one of those more than 20,000 children murdered was someone's whole world.

□ 1150

Since the cease-fire was declared, the media and the world have shifted their gaze, but families in Gaza still live under constant threat: of violence, of the elements, of starvation.

Earlier this year, my colleagues, Congresswoman PETERSEN and Senator GALLEG0, and I led over 100 Members of Congress in urging the State Department to immediately surge humanitarian aid and ready-to-feed infant formula to families in Gaza to save lives.

In a written response, the State Department expressed concern about the crisis, but words without action are not only empty, they are deadly.

We have doubled down on our cause and demand the State Department send Members of Congress a weekly update on exactly how much aid is entering Gaza and reaching desperate families.

However, Mr. Speaker, aid alone is not enough, especially not for our children who have suffered injuries, especially not for children with disabilities and complex medical conditions. Medical evacuation is a critical aspect of lifesaving humanitarian work, and right now over 16,500 people are waiting to be medically evacuated from Gaza for essential treatment.

I recently heard from a mother named Hadeel. Seven months ago, her 6-year-old son died while awaiting medical evacuation. He suffered from a kidney condition, and the decimated medical system in Gaza could not provide him the care he needed to survive.

Now her daughter, Lana, who suffers from the same kidney condition, is on the wait list for medical evacuation. Each day that goes by without adequate treatment, Lana's life is in danger.

Hadeel is no different from the parent in Boston who clutches their child in their arms and listens for labored

breathing as they ride out the flu. Just like that parent, she would do anything for her baby. Just like that parent, she whispers a prayer: I hope they will be okay. Every child deserves to live and thrive.

In the timeless words of James Baldwin: "The children are always ours, every single one of them, all over the globe; and I am beginning to suspect that whoever is incapable of recognizing this may be incapable of morality."

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America built, bought, and sold the bombs that killed Palestinians throughout this horrific genocidal campaign carried out by the Israeli military.

The United States of America once claimed to be a moral and just authority, but today all the globe sees is the blood on the hands of this Nation.

It is not too late to appeal to our better angels, to act with urgency to save lives, to support medical evacuations, to surge baby formula and aid, to chart a path forward to save lives. Every child is someone's whole world. Every life is a universe, and our destinies are tied.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, permit me to commend the gentlewoman for her very moving and powerful commentary. With her consent and permission, I would associate myself with it.

Ms. PRESSLEY. It would be an honor.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a very proud, liberated Democrat, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to address a question that many are posing and a question that I thought I should answer publicly so that all would understand. The question is: Why am I moving to bring impeachment again against the President of the United States of America?

The answer will be better explained when the Articles of Impeachment are presented. However, I do believe that it is necessary to give some indication today and possibly at a later time as to why this is so important, why would I do such a thing.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Vice President Dick Cheney. I agree with him. I agree with a statement that he has made. Yes, Vice President Cheney represents the Republican Party or he did when he was Vice President, and everyone knows that I am a Democrat, but that doesn't mean that we can't agree on some of the important and great issues of our time.

One of the great issues of our time is before us now, and I would like to read the words of Vice President Cheney, words that I agree with, Mr. Speaker.

Vice President Cheney indicated—and if I may use my pointer—on September 6 of 2024 when this was published: "In our Nation's 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our Republic than Donald Trump."

Let me pause for just a moment. I would like to highlight this language: "... an individual"—one person—"who is a greater threat to our Republic"—an important statement—"than Donald Trump." He says in 248 years. I will come back to these in just a moment.

"He tried to steal the last election . . ." Now, this was September of 2024, so it is the election prior to September of 2024. "He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him. He can never be trusted with power again." I agree with this.

"As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution."

Now let's walk back through this with emphasis on certain things. One individual, Donald Trump, is a greater threat to the Republic than any others. Never before has there been a person who has been a greater threat than Donald Trump.

Why is he a greater threat? Well, you first have to understand, if you don't, that we have a Republic. A Republic is government by the public, but it is done by and through representation, representatives, the House of Representatives. Representatives, the Senate. The Republic speaks through representatives. We have a Republic. He indicates that this President is a great threat to representational government, to the Republic.

Well, let's look at this: He, Donald Trump, doesn't respect the separation of powers. He believes that the judiciary should agree with him, and if the judiciary does not agree, he has as much said they should be impeached. He was so emphatic about this impeachment that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America had to call him out publicly. He didn't use his name, but we all knew that he was speaking to the President at the time, President Donald Trump.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court reminded the President that in this country we have a history of appealing decisions of the courts. We don't impeach judges because we don't agree with their decisions. We appeal these decisions. He doesn't respect separation of powers. He owns the House of Representatives. He owns the Senate. The Senate and the House will not make a move without his consent and permission.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, as of late, however, there are some indications that some independence is starting to present itself.

Generally speaking, the President doesn't respect the separation of powers. If a Member of the House disagrees with him, he immediately calls upon the constituents of that Member to do what is necessary within the law, generally speaking, to make sure that that Member gets phone calls. He makes

sure that that Member is intimidated to the extent that that Member has to reconsider whatever the disagreement was.

This is the President of the United States, the intimidator-in-chief. He prides himself on his ability to intimidate and to get persons to cooperate. He doesn't believe in the separation of powers. He disrespects the House, the Senate, and the Members who don't give him what he desires.

He is also a person who thinks that he can literally do whatever he pleases given that he has this mandate from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has indicated—I say “mandate.” The Supreme Court has given him an indication that he is above the law in certain areas. The Supreme Court didn't use the language “above the law,” but the Supreme Court has given him this belief that he is above the law.

The Supreme Court talked about immunity. He has taken this as an indication that he is above the law. He will do pretty much whatever he chooses.

One of the reasons that Vice President Cheney made these comments was because, as the President of the United States of America—these are my words and not Vice President Cheney's—the President incited the insurrection. There are people using other terminology. I believe it was an insurrection. It was an insurrection that took place after the election wherein he was defeated.

He incited the persons to come over to the Capitol of the United States of America, the citadel of democracy, as it is called and known. He incited them to come over here and to invade the Capitol itself.

After the invasion took place, they went through the Halls. They did some very ugly things. Aside from calling for the lynching of people, aside from having some anti-Semitic commentary on various pieces of paraphernalia, they had gallows. Aside from these things, they committed other demeaning and vile acts, such as defecating in various public places within the Congress, within the buildings.

These were some very vile and mean-spirited people who invaded the Capitol. They did this at the behest of the President of the United States of America.

After all of this was done, with the President being sworn in on January 20, 2025, after all of this had taken place at a prior election, the very first act that the President engaged in, it seems, after he had raised his hand to be sworn in, upon lowering his hand, he seemed to have rushed over to someplace where he had a document that allowed him to pardon the people who defecated in the Congress, in the buildings.

These were the people who marched through, looking for the Vice President at that time, indicating that they wanted to do harm to him. President Trump pardoned these people. It seems

this was his very first act immediately after being sworn in. This is the person who is President of the United States of America.

Unfortunately, there are many people who just brush aside what happened on January 6, 2021. They just brush it aside, as though: Oh, well, that happened, but it won't happen again.

That seems to be the attitude that is preeminent among the minds of many. If he did it once, what makes us think he won't do it again? Where is the empirical evidence to support the notion he won't do it again? This is a person who incited this. He pardoned these people as one of his very first acts, if not the very first act that he engaged in, after being elected President again.

On January 20, the President was sworn in. This is when he signed the pardon for these people who came into the Capitol in a very rambunctious way and in a very demeaning way, in fact.

People died as a result of this. He instigated this. What causes people to think that he won't do it again? I believe that he will. I believe that he will find great difficulty in stepping down from office.

As a result of my belief, as a result of his not respecting the separation of powers, as a result of his not understanding that there should be some independence in the judiciary and that the judiciary is not for him to supervise, I put all of this into my collection of thoughts.

As I do so, I have to agree with Vice President Cheney. I mentioned that in our 248-year history, there has never been an individual who is a greater threat to our Republic than Donald Trump. Yes, he tried to steal the last election, the election before September 2024, when this statement was published. He tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters, the people of the United States of America, the voters, had rejected him. He can never be trusted with power again.

Mr. Speaker, I will bring Articles of Impeachment because what Vice President Cheney—may he rest in peace—what Vice President Cheney said on September 6, 2024, is true now. We should never have trusted him. He has been given a second chance to steal fire from the gods. We should never have allowed him to do so.

Mr. Speaker, there is a remedy. When the courts can't control him and when his party won't control him, then the only remedy left is impeachment. That is all that we have.

There are some people who would say this is not the right time. Let's address the question of timing. Dr. King said that the time is always ripe to do what is right. If the Republic is at risk, the time is always right to do what is right, to make sure the Republic is protected. I will be doing what I believe is right to protect the Republic. There were people who said to those persons who were at the Edmund Pettus Bridge

on Bloody Sunday: This is not the right time to march. Don't march now. Let's do it another day.

The Honorable John Lewis, who was a Member of this House, a colleague, said: No, we march.

They did march. They marched, knowing there would be harm that they would have to suffer. They knew this. They saw the constabulary as they approached the crest of the Edmund Pettus Bridge. They knew what was going to happen, but they marched on.

If they could march on, knowing that they were going to be harmed—and the Honorable John Lewis told me personally he thought he was going to die on that bridge. They beat them all the way back to the church where they started. These were churchgoing people. They beat them all the way back.

If they could march on, facing this kind of danger, surely, I should march on and bring Articles of Impeachment. I am not requiring or asking any Member of this House to vote with me. I ask my colleagues to vote their conscience. I ask them to do what they believe is right. I will vote my conscience. I am not going to vote to table these Articles of Impeachment.

For whatever reason, those who vote to table are indicating that they don't think it should be an actual vote or that there should be an actual vote on the articles themselves. They are saying they want to put this off. If that is their opinion, they can do that. That is not my opinion.

There needs to be a vote not only on this motion to table that will be presented, but also a vote on the actual Articles of Impeachment.

□ 1210

This man is a threat to our Republic. He cannot be trusted. Vice President Cheney was right then, and he is right now.

I am going to bring those Articles of Impeachment.

The public is constantly asking me: How many votes do you think you will have?

I can only assure them of one thing, Mr. Speaker: I will have one vote. This I can assure them of. I will have one vote.

Why?

It is because I believe that it is better to stand alone on some issues than to not stand at all. I will stand. I will present the articles, and when I vote, if I am the only person to do it, then I will know and posterity will know that I have done the right thing.

AND STILL I RISE

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to be a liberated Democrat, proud of what my country stands for in many of its great documents, and proud of the notion that we are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I am proud to know that the pledge has in it the notion that there should

be liberty and justice for all. I am proud to know that we have these words that indicate to all that all persons are created equally and endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I am proud that we would receive and have the Statue of Liberty. The statue speaks to the world about who we are. It really symbolizes the United States of America. It is an awesome piece of work that was accorded the United States and given to us from our friends, the French. It is a piece of work, a piece of handcrafted work, that is known the world over. People recognize this as a symbol of the United States of America.

It has some words on it. Mr. Speaker, it has these words:

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The United States stands for freedom and for liberty and justice for all.

"The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me."

Bring them to us, the United States of America.

Then it goes on to say:

"I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Mr. Speaker, the golden door is the door that stands for opportunity and that stands for liberty and justice for all. It stands for government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That is the golden door.

For those persons who are homeless, for those persons yearning to breathe free, that is what the Statue of Liberty has stood for until recently.

The beautiful lady has these words:

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Now the beautiful lady, the symbol of the United States of America, hasn't been enshrined on it, but at this point, given the behavior of this President, Donald Trump, given his behavior, these words should be associated now with the Statue of Liberty: Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be breathe free, with one exception: people of color need not apply. People of color need not apply.

The President of the United States has indicated that there are nations from which all immigration applications have been put on hold. There are 19 nations, and the interesting thing about the 19 nations, Mr. Speaker, is all, saving maybe one or two, are nations where persons of color are pre-eminent. This is the case in all, save one or two.

The President is giving the impression, Mr. Speaker, that if you are a person of color and an immigrant, then you are a threat to the United States of America.

This is a form of collective punishment that is unacceptable. He is causing people within this country to fear

the other, the other, the people from other countries.

If you are Latino in this country, you are now suspect. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter where you are from. If you are a Latino in this country, then you are now suspect. If you look like you are a Latino, then you are now a suspect in the United States of America.

I remember when I was suspect, I probably still am in some quarters, but I remember when I was suspect. I remember when I was a young man in the United States of America, and generally speaking, it was thought among the minds of many, that young persons of color would commit crimes, that they were criminals, that they would steal, and that you have to watch them.

When you go into a store, Mr. Speaker, people watch you. This is when I was a younger man.

It was thought that we were somehow undesirable. In fact, I had people tell me: Go back to Africa.

They didn't even know who I was. This is what I was told as a much younger person.

I think longevity has some benefits. It causes you to understand the now because of what happened to you then.

I appreciate and understand why others are apprehensive about their being in this country now. I appreciate it because I saw what happened to me and others and how we were treated then. It was called segregation, but that was another form of invidious discrimination which was nothing more or less—maybe more, could have been more—than racism. It was all about racism.

We are returning to that past that I thought we had left behind, Mr. Speaker, when you decide that countries of color, saving one or two of these 19, that you are not desired, you need not apply, you can't apply.

What is interesting about this whole scenario is there are people from European countries who have overstayed on their visas. They are here unlawfully after having overstayed, by the President's definition, but we never hear anything about it being unlawful. I am saying unlawful. They use other language. I say undocumented immigrants, and they say other things about the persons who are here without documentation.

□ 1220

People who have overstayed their visas from European countries, you don't see them being pulled out of cars, generally speaking. There may be an exception, and the press will take that exception to prove a rule, but that is not the way the rules are proved. You don't see it.

You see people of color, people from south of the border, people from these 18 countries, that are being discriminated against with this policy that he is implementing.

The American public, a good many people, not all, have bought into the

notion that if you are from a foreign country, you are likely to be a criminal and you are likely to hurt me.

This symbol of freedom of the United States of America should have enshrined now: People of color need not apply.

In spite of everything I just said, I love my country. I love my country. I stand for what the Constitution stands for.

The Constitution of the United States of America should be respected. I stand on the Constitution.

I believe that this President has gone too far in many areas, but I especially am concerned about the way people of color are being treated.

I have a history that I have to harken back to, and that is what advises me as to how I can conclude that people of color need not apply.

I want the President to know that he is not a king. Yes, he has control over my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Yes, the Supreme Court seems to have become a partisan institution, unfortunately. But there are some other folk in this country that will have the last word. They are the people who are known as "we, the people," known as "we, the people" in one of our great documents.

We, the people—we will have the last word.

Not all Americans agree with this. They are people of good will. I believe most people in this country are people of good will, and they see what is happening. I believe that they want to make a difference, and I encourage people to make a difference.

Don't do anything unlawful. I do not condone any acts of violence. I do not. But peaceful protest is a part of American history. It is as old as the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock. It is as meaningful as the farmers coming to this Capitol complaining about how their farmland was being treated. It is something that is as meaningful in this country as the actual Constitution itself because it is the Constitution that gives it its meaning.

Peaceful protest, I support that. However, I also support something else other than peaceful protest, and that is for people to vote. Everybody ought to vote. I am not going to tell you who to vote for, but I am going to say this: We have a country to save. We have a country to save. You can't save your country by not participating.

It is a participatory democracy. You have every right as any other person in this country, if you hear my voice. I have no greater right to vote than any other person in this country, and neither does the President. One person, one vote, *Baker v. Carr*. We have a duty and responsibility and obligation to vote.

Today, I am encouraging people to vote. Vote, vote, participate. However, I have a very, very special group of people that I want to approach now with voting.

There will be Articles of Impeachment brought to the Congress of the

United States of America for reasons that will be stated in the Articles of Impeachment. I am not saying to anybody that exactly what I have said today will be the Articles of Impeachment. There will be some members of the press who will distort my words and say that I want to impeach because the Statue of Liberty doesn't have certain language on it. You who are listening will know the truth. That is not true, but that is the way certain members of the press behave. That is the status quo press, as how I identify them.

But I want to say to the persons who are going to be a part of this impeachment, and that will be all of the Members of the House of Representatives, if they choose to be a part of it. People can opt out if they choose to.

I would encourage you to vote. I am not going to tell you how to vote. What I am going to suggest to you is this: I will be voting my conscience. I will be voting to protect liberty and justice for all. I will be voting to protect government of the people, by the people, for the people. I will be voting to make sure that all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I will be voting to protect the country I love. I hope that you will do a similar thing. If you don't vote the way I vote, just understand this: I am not expecting everybody to vote with me, but I can assure the public of one thing: I will be voting for those articles to not only come to the floor but to be voted on so that at least one person can show that we believe—this one person believes, and I will be that one person possibly. One person can show that I believe in what the country stands for, and I am willing to take a stand to support what I believe. On some issues, it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

I pledge to bring the Articles of Impeachment to this floor before the Christmas break. I invite all to participate. Vote here and be alert so that you may understand better why I will do what I will do.

I am honored to do what I do. I am honored to serve in this House, and I am grateful to the Speaker and the minority leader for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President, including making references to other sources that would have been out of order if spoken in the Member's own words.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 119th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

MATT VAN EPPS, Seventh District of Tennessee.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee Natural Resources. H.R. 4503. A bill to improve environmental reviews and authorizations through the use of interactive, digital, and cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-392). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee Natural Resources. H.R. 573. A bill to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-393). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WALBERG: Committee on Education and Workforce. H.R. 3170. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-394). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee Natural Resources. H.R. 4776. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process; with an amendment (Rept. 119-395). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6419. A bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 6420. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to define short-term limited duration insurance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 6421. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to expand eligibility for catastrophic plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. McDONALD RIVET):

H.R. 6422. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain EPA geographic programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KEAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6423. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AMO (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BALINT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SIMON, and Mr. MAGAZINER):

H.R. 6424. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to update the amount of Social Security lump sum death payments and index lump sum death payments to inflation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AMO (for himself, Mr. SCHMIDT, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MCBRIDE):

H.R. 6425. A bill to establish a national strategy for combating scams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AMO (for himself, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. KIM, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MCBRIDE):

H.R. 6426. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to establish elder justice task forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. TAYLOR, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 6427. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of State highway standards for airfield pavement construction and improvement under certain

circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 6428. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report on participation in educational and cultural exchange programs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MIN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BELL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 6429. A bill to establish in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security a program to promote the cybersecurity field to disadvantaged communities, including older individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, geographically diverse communities, socioeconomically diverse communities, women, individuals from nontraditional educational paths, individuals who are veterans, and individuals who were formerly incarcerated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. BYNUM (for herself and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 6430. A bill to limit and eliminate excessive, hidden, and unnecessary fees imposed on consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 6431. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules governing the State administration of self-employment assistance programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6432. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to reauthorize brownfields revitalization funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6433. A bill to provide technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. MACE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. LUTTRELL):

H.R. 6434. A bill to establish a special registration under the Controlled Substances Act for schedule I eligible investigational drugs under the Federal Right to Try law; to

the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6435. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish additional requirements for certain transportation projects with estimated costs of \$2,500,000,000 or more, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 6436. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to allow for the advance payment of assistance under Tree Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FRY (for himself and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 6437. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Kids Internet Safety Partnership to identify and advance best practices with respect to the online safety of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 6438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure high-income individuals pay their fair share of taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. MCGUIRE):

H.R. 6439. A bill to expand eligibility for special overtime pay to U.S. Border Patrol agents classified above grade GS-12; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. GRIJALVA (for herself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6440. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 6441. A bill to require the Postmaster General update the systems of the Postal Service to accurately recognize and preserve address data, including the proper use of linguistic characters and place names, in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6442. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to establish requirements for biological fathers to pay child support for medical expenses incurred during pregnancy and delivery; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6443. A bill to terminate the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program, cancel pending applications, mandate security reassessment of current beneficiaries, and provide for removal of individuals found ineligible or a threat to national security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 6444. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a Blast Overpressure Task Force; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY of Utah):

H.R. 6445. A bill to clarify the time period for registering health care apprenticeships under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act") and require the digitization of apprenticeship agreement forms under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 6446. A bill to modify the procedures for investigating claims of evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 6447. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons that operate in a sector of the economy of the People's Republic of China in which the person has engaged in a pattern of significant theft of the intellectual property of a United States person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KING-HINDS (for herself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 6448. A bill to amend section 47109 of title 49, United States Code, to update the requirements to qualify for the special rule relating to project costs for airports in economically distressed communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. STRONG):

H.R. 6449. A bill to modify the penalties for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1993; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

H.R. 6450. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit rollover contributions from Roth IRAs to designated Roth accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 6451. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program for grants to improve access to public transportation services for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6452. A bill to amend title 5, United States code, to require certain officials to provide an annual briefing to certain congressional committees; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 6453. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide for a remediation period before the commencement of a civil action; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 6454. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Zero Suicide Initiative pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6455. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to take certain Medicare

premiums of household members into account in determining the health care insurance premiums tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. SELF, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6456. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 6457. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the placement of a photograph on an electronic benefit transfer card used by a household to purchase food with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 6458. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the electronic filing process for employment taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6459. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 South Main Street in Glendale, Utah, as the "Deputy Sheriff Brian Harris Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MANN (for himself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 6460. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify exceptions for limited recreational operations of unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MCBRIDE (for herself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 6461. A bill to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop best practices and technical guidance on artificial intelligence model documentation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY (for herself, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 6462. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide to rural communities technical assistance in recovering from disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. STANTON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. FIELDS):

H.R. 6463. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to open applications for the Next Generation Warning System grants of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for not less than 30 days each year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. McDONALD RIVET (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. WIED, and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 6464. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide additional financial assistance to rural, small, and tribal publicly owned treatment works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 6465. A bill to reduce and eliminate threats posed by nuclear weapons to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MESSMER (for himself, Mr. CRANE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. ROSE, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. SELF, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BOST, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 6466. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish Federal penalties for the knowing and intentional administration of any abortion-inducing drug to a woman without her informed consent, if the abortion-inducing drug has been shipped or transported in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Ms. SIMON, Ms. ELFRETH, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6467. A bill to designate the Museum of the Blind People's Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "National Museum of the Blind People's Movement"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 6468. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize rural residency planning and development grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MIN (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WALKINSHAW, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SWALLOW, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 6469. A bill to require a report on internet freedom in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. CLINE, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 6470. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide baseline updates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 6471. A bill to authorize the court to impose a sentence that is below the minimum statutory sentence in the case of a victim offender; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOYLAN (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H.R. 6472. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for in-state tuition rates for certain residents of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable

credit against tax for disaster mitigation expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 6474. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the meaning and eligibility of energy communities for purposes of the increased renewable electricity production and increased clean electricity investment credit rates; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mr. MAGAZINER):

H.R. 6475. A bill to direct the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and to report to Congress regarding such implementation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 6476. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6477. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with respect to the eligible activities under the Continuum of Care Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SORENSSEN (for himself, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. GRAVES):

H.R. 6478. A bill to require the Secretary of the Air Force to establish a permanent program to provide tuition assistance to members of the Air National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ):

H.R. 6479. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require the establishment of an Exchange in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 6480. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to submit a report to Congress on the state of the real estate portfolio of the Public Building Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 6481. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Federal Protective Service to establish guidance relating to emergency communication protocols for public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6482. A bill to rename the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Michigan Center, Michigan, as the "Captain Herbert Elfring VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALKINSHAW:

H.R. 6483. A bill to establish an Inspector General of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SIMON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 926. A resolution urging action to increase equity within cannabis policy and the legal cannabis marketplace; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Workforce, Foreign Affairs, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. MORELLE):

H. Res. 927. A resolution declaring support by the House of Representatives for Design for Recycling (DFR) initiatives that limit all types of waste by encouraging manufacturers to design their products to have the maximum number of recyclable components; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. CRANE):

H. Res. 928. A resolution affirming support for most-favored-Nation drug pricing for United States patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H. Res. 929. A resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to cooperate and partner with the Government of Honduras to counter narcotics and condemning the pardon of the Juan Orlando Hernández; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. KIM, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H. Res. 930. A resolution commemorating the 78th birthday of Jimmy Lai on December 8, 2025, as “Jimmy Lai Day”, for his role in advocating for free press, religious freedom, and democracy in Hong Kong, and calling on the People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong authorities to release Jimmy Lai and all other Hong Kong prodemocracy advocates from prison; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SHREVE (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. MACKENZIE, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. FEDORCHAK, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. RULLI, and Mr. McDOWELL):

H. Res. 931. A resolution expressing support for the designation of December 4, 2025, as “National Scam Prevention Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. SELF, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CRANE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. FINE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H. Res. 932. A resolution denouncing dangerous and seditious rhetoric by Members of Congress and expressing condemnation of Senator Mark Kelly, Senator Elissa Slotkin, Representative Jason Crow, Representative Christopher Deluzio, Representative Maggie Goodlander, and Representative Chrissy Houlahan for attempting to sow disaffection amongst members of the United States military and intelligence community and encouraging them to act against the Commander in Chief and President of the United States and violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 6420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 6421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 6422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KEAN:

H.R. 6423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. AMO:

H.R. 6424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I.

By Mr. AMO:

H.R. 6425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I.

By Mr. AMO:

H.R. 6426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I.

By Mr. BEGICH:

H.R. 6427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 6428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 6429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. BYNUM:

H.R. 6430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 6431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 6432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 6433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3; to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 6436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 6437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 6438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof”

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 6439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, §1 and §8

By Mr. HERNÁNDEZ:

H.R. 6441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 6444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mr. KENNEDY of Utah:

H.R. 6447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. KING-HINDS:

H.R. 6448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 6449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 6450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 6451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Clause 8 Section 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 6454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 6455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 6456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 6457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 6458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. MCBRIDE:

H.R. 6461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY:

H.R. 6462.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

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By Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY:

H.R. 6463.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. McDONALD RIVET:

H.R. 6464.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 6465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and clause 18

By Mr. MESSMER:

H.R. 6466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 6467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, which states that "Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States."

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 6468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MIN:

H.R. 6469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 6470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 6471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 6473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 6474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 6475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, including the powers to provide for the general welfare, to regulate commerce among the several States, and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying those powers into execution.

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 6476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 6477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. SORENSEN:

H.R. 6478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 6479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 6480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 6481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WALKINSHAW:

H.R. 6483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 379: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 539: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 987: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 995: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1227: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 1266: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1517: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1548: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

H.R. 1564: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1672: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 1783: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1954: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1965: Mr. WHITESIDES.

H.R. 1993: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2120: Mrs. DINGELL.	H.R. 4206: Ms. FEDORCHAK.	H.R. 5883: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 2192: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.	H.R. 4235: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.	H.R. 5939: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 2232: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GUEST, and Ms. PINGREE.	H.R. 4268: Mr. VAN DREW.	H.R. 5940: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2528: Mr. FITZGERALD.	H.R. 4413: Ms. MENG.	H.R. 5950: Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 2531: Mr. THOMPSON of California.	H.R. 4640: Ms. BALINT and Ms. DELAURO.	H.R. 5959: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 2736: Mr. RUIZ.	H.R. 4646: Mr. VINDMAN.	H.R. 6069: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2743: Mr. RUIZ.	H.R. 4664: Mrs. TORRES of California.	H.R. 6088: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2939: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. MAC-KENZIE.	H.R. 4702: Mr. WHITESIDES.	H.R. 6124: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3038: Mr. VINDMAN.	H.R. 4876: Mr. LATIMER.	H.R. 6182: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 3112: Mr. HORSFORD and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.	H.R. 5103: Mr. GUEST.	H.R. 6191: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 3206: Mr. COSTA.	H.R. 5106: Mr. CASAR.	H.R. 6228: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3226: Mr. BRESNAHAN.	H.R. 5113: Mr. GUEST.	H.R. 6248: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 3267: Mr. CASTEN.	H.R. 5130: Mr. LANGWORTHY.	H.R. 6262: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 3505: Mr. HUFFMAN.	H.R. 5356: Mr. MANNION.	H.R. 6271: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3569: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.	H.R. 5428: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.	H.R. 6293: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3720: Mr. VINDMAN.	H.R. 5434: Mr. CASTEN and Ms. BARRAGÁN.	H.R. 6372: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3779: Mr. CASAR.	H.R. 5454: Mr. YAKYM.	H.R. 6376: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 3930: Mrs. FOUSHEE.	H.R. 5476: Mr. LANDSMAN.	H.R. 6397: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4167: Mr. STUTZMAN.	H.R. 5541: Ms. BROWNLEY.	H. Con. Res. 64: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4194: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GILL of Texas.	H.R. 5586: Mr. VINDMAN.	
	H.R. 5625: Mr. GUEST.	
	H.R. 5703: Ms. PINGREE.	
	H.R. 5762: Mr. CONAWAY.	
	H.R. 5783: Mr. COHEN.	



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No. 203

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, who brought creation out of the void, light from darkness, and order from chaos. You own everything. Lord, use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they daily experience the joy of companionship with You. As they encounter each day—pleasure, pain, and defeat—may they live to honor Your Name. Remind our Senators that no evil can stop the unfolding of Your purposes and providence. Lord, lead them this day with Your merciful hands providing for their needs. Bless all who work to defend freedom. May no weapon formed against them prosper.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators being permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

FARMERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is real concern in rural America, particularly among family farmers. Farmers know that margins matter. Farmers don't want to see their revenue continue being eaten up by input suppliers.

So we need to do what we can to ensure that competition in seed and fertilizer industries is fair and that markets are transparent to our farmers. That is a very important consideration, at this very time, as the Trump administration and we Members of Congress look to provide aid to farmers.

This is a top concern that I hear from many family farmers. My farmers are concerned that Federal dollars meant to help the farmers will simply get passed on to seed and fertilizer companies.

That concern brings me to my legislation and bringing it to the attention of my fellow Senators. Passing the Fertilizer Research Act is the first step in addressing those concerns. I hope my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee will join me to provide transparency for farmers through this very important legislation that I am offering.

So please take a good look, a very hard look, at the Fertilizer Research Act.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am very pleased to report that, as of yesterday, the Senate has confirmed a total of 314 of President Trump's civilian nominees, and earlier this week, I filed on another nominations package, which,

when passed, will bring our total confirmations to more than 400. That far outstrips total confirmations by this point in President Biden's term and in President Trump's first term, as well, and it is particularly notable that we have managed to beat those first term numbers when you consider the obstacles the Democrats have put up.

I have talked more than once, here on the floor, about Democrats' unprecedented obstruction of the President's nominees this year. And I really do mean unprecedented. For decades upon decades, the Senate has expedited the consideration of large numbers of Presidential nominees, confirming them by unanimous consent or voice vote.

Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, for example, each had 98 percent of their civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote in the first term of their Presidencies—98 percent. George W. Bush and Barack Obama each had 90 percent.

Now, it is true that Democrats substantially eroded this tradition of bipartisanship during President Trump's first term. All of a sudden, positions that had traditionally gone by unanimous consent or voice vote were now requiring rollcall votes. But even so, both President Biden and President Trump in his first term had more than half of their nominees confirmed by voice vote.

And then there was this year. This year, not one single Presidential nominee has been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—not one. Democrats have dragged out the process on every single one of the President's nominations. The Democrat leader tried to justify the Democrats' historic blockade by claiming that the President's nominees have been “historically bad.”

The only problem with that is the Democrats have supported a number of the President's nominees in committee and have even voted for some of them on the Senate floor. So either Members

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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of the Democrat party are supporting historically bad nominees or something else is going on here, and I think we know what that is. That something else that is going on here looks a lot like petty partisanship. Maybe you want to call it Trump derangement syndrome.

Democrats and their base still can't deal with the fact that President Trump won last November, and so they have held up every single one—every single one—of his nominations in revenge. But Republicans have not been daunted. We have just continued plowing ahead on nominations, helping us rack up a historic number of votes, this year, in the process.

And in September, we took steps to restore Senate precedent and codify in Senate rules what was once understood to be standard practice, and that is the Senate's acting expeditiously on largely noncontroversial Presidential nominees to allow a President to get his team in place. Now, both Democrat and Republican Presidents will be protected from some of the partisan excesses that we have seen from Democrats this year.

Mr. President, 2025 has been a long road, but I am very proud to be able to say, at the end of it, that we are well on our way to confirming more than 400 of the President's civilian nominees and that we have virtually cleared the nominations backlog by the end of his first year, in contrast to the situation, at this point, in President Trump's first term and President Biden's.

And when the Senate returns in January, I look forward to continuing to confirm additional members of the President's team so that he can continue to do the job to which he was elected by the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, I am announcing that Senate Democrats will introduce legislation for a clean, 3-year extension of the current ACA tax credits. This is the bill—a clean, 3-year extension of ACA tax credits—that Democrats will bring to the floor of the Senate for a vote next Thursday, and every single Democrat will support it.

Republicans have 1 week to decide where they stand: Vote for this bill and

bring healthcare costs down, or block this bill and send premiums skyrocketing.

That is what is at stake when we vote next week. It is going to be one of the most important votes we take because it is showing who is on the side of the American people and lowering their healthcare costs and who is on the side of the big special interests and is going to allow them to raise healthcare costs for America. People back home will be watching what Republicans do, and the American people are running out of time before January 1.

Make no mistake, our bill is the last chance Republicans will get before January 1 to prevent premiums from skyrocketing. Republicans have no hope of solving this healthcare crisis on their own. They have no healthcare plan of their own whatsoever. They are far too divided. Americans can't help but notice that when Leader THUNE came to the podium a few minutes ago, he didn't even talk about healthcare because he has nothing to say. They can't even come up with their own bill.

The only path next week is supporting our bill. While Democrats are united in fighting for the American people, Republicans are too busy fighting amongst themselves. They can't even come up with their own plan. Republicans have spent more time kicking low-income people off health insurance and raising costs for those who stay covered than on doing anything to lower premiums. They have riddled their plan with poison pills that would ban abortion nationwide.

For those Republicans talking about sending checks, how is a one-time check supposed to last the whole year? People are paying more every day for the things they need, and a single check in the mail is cold comfort if you are paying \$1,000 or \$5,000 more a month just for health insurance.

So the reality is this. The reality is simply this: The easiest, most direct way, the simplest way to solve this premium crisis is for Republicans to vote for our bill. Any Republican who claims to care about premium increases on January 1 has only one realistic path, and that is to support our bill for a simple, clean, 3-year extension.

If Republicans block our bill, there is no going back. We won't get another chance to halt these premium spikes before they kick in at the start of the new year. Those insurance premiums in January will land like a hammer blow on the American people. The pain will fall on all Americans but heaviest in the Republicans' own backyards. They don't even care about their own constituents.

As election results have shown in November, this past week, and in many other instances, the American people are beginning to learn Republicans don't care that costs are going through the roof for the average American family.

Americans with chronic illnesses will suffer if we don't extend the credits. Rural communities will be devastated. People who get insurance through their jobs will see their costs go up too. This isn't just affecting ACA people.

We can avoid all of this needless pain if just a handful of Republicans join us in passing our bill—join us in passing our bill. Or are they going to continue the Republican war on healthcare, on reducing healthcare costs, and block getting better healthcare for the American people.

For the last 30 years, Republicans have been fighting, but now this fight is coming to a head because the failure to extend these premiums will hit so hard—harder than anything that has hit the American people in the last while.

Democrats have made clear where we stand. Now that our proposal is out, Republicans have 1 week to pick a side: Join us and prevent premiums from skyrocketing, or block our bill and condemn people, the American people, to financial disaster. The choice is up to the Republicans here in the Senate.

SIGNALGATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Signalgate, today, a Pentagon watchdog will release a new report on Signalgate finding that Secretary Hegseth put the lives of American troops at risk by sharing sensitive operational information on a group chat in flagrant disregard of security proposals. Secretary Hegseth has put the lives of American troops at risk. The conclusion that this report points to is damning. The Secretary of Defense's lack of judgment put the lives of our troops in danger.

Instead of accepting responsibility for his mistakes as any real leader would do, the Secretary has remained defiant, has mocked this incident, and has tried to label this as a witch hunt—as a witch hunt.

Pete Hegseth has a clear MO: He puts himself first at the expense of our men and women in uniform, and when he screws up, he tries to hide the truth. That is his MO—putting himself first and then hiding the truth.

This new report, just like the boat strikes in the Caribbean, points to a growing pattern: When Hegseth has the chance to make himself look good, look tough, he will talk a big game—try to seem tough. He will go on TV and make big speeches. But when he makes mistakes or faces any adversity, he throws others under the bus without a second thought.

This guy does not belong as Secretary of Defense. In the 10 months on the job, Pete Hegseth has demonstrated clear defects of character that we cannot afford in a Secretary of Defense.

I ask my Republican colleagues: How can we trust this man to keep our troops safe when it is clear that he isn't able to even keep sensitive information safe? How can we trust the

word of a man who will change his story or shift blame or hide the truth at the drop of a hat? The answer is, we cannot trust him.

Pete Hegseth is not qualified to serve as Secretary of Defense. Our brave troops need much better than Pete Hegseth.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, on nominations, Republicans will move forward with a Trojan horse of a nominee package, confirming in one fell swoop a slew of horribly unqualified, shockingly radical nominees.

All year long, Senate Republicans have bent the knee to Donald Trump, giving him every nominee he has asked for, no matter how unqualified, no matter how unfit they are, no matter how bad this nominee package is. It is much different than any nominee package we have seen.

Democrats oppose these people, as you will see in a minute, because they are just totally unqualified to be in the important positions he is trying to place them in. No wonder the Republicans didn't want to have votes on these people, didn't want to have discussion, because when the American people learn who they are, they are aghast that these types of people would be appointed.

So, yes, Democrats want votes. We want at least an hour or two of discussion to fill these important positions.

Leader THUNE said, oh, we are just doing this for partisan political reasons. Here is what he said exactly. He said: Democrats must be doing one of two things. THUNE said: Either the President has been nominating historically bad nominees, or Democrats are simply being partisan.

Well, Speaker THUNE, Leader THUNE, that is obvious, Leader THUNE: It is that Donald Trump is nominating historically bad nominees. That is why we are doing this.

I mean, there are so many. I could spend hours on the floor talking about them. But let me mention a few, just a few, and when you hear what is going on, America, you will be aghast.

Look at the nomination of Sara Bailey to serve as Director of National Drug Control Policy. They are trying to sneak this one through. Of course they would be afraid of a discussion or a vote or who she is coming to light. Bailey has no background in medicine, no background in public health, no background in law enforcement. She is so radical—Bailey is—that even FOX News's news shows banned her.

But do you know what she has going for her? why she was nominated for an important position with no experience? She said the January 6 rioters were "good Americans." That was her ticket to getting this job. All you have to do is tell Donald Trump he was right about January 6, even though he was so obviously wrong and dangerous in what he did then. But all you have to do is

tell him "Oh, they were good Americans," and that is good enough for Donald Trump. And now Senate Republicans have gone down to his level, and it is good enough for them.

Republicans are also trying to sneak through people like Anthony D'Esposito to be the inspector general—the watchdog—of the Department of Labor. This is a former Member of the House who put his mistress on his congressional payroll and has faced a slew of misconduct allegations as a police officer. That is not anyone's definition of a good watchdog—unless you are Senate Republicans. Someone who faced misconduct allegations and put his mistress on the payroll is now the watchdog at the Department of Labor? Give me a break.

Of course they want to hide these nominees. They are embarrassed about them. They know that Donald Trump has the lowest standard of any President we have ever seen for qualifications to important positions.

There is John Bartrum, who Republicans want to appoint as Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs. What is his claim to fame? He was instrumental in firing VA staff, tearing up VA contracts, and politicizing VA research.

That is just three. There are so many more that are just appalling. Yeah, we Democrats of course want to see votes on these nominees. We don't want to allow them to just be all voted yes in a big package so their lack of qualification, their lack of honor, their lack of honesty, their past records can be hidden.

But Republicans are ashamed—ashamed—of who they have to vote for.

They should vote against these nominees, but they are afraid of Donald Trump. It is very clear what Republicans are doing. They are trying to pull a fast one on the American people and sneak through an entire henhouse of bad nominees without giving them the scrutiny that the American people demand.

You know, when you choose bad nominees, you pay a price. Trump picked Hegseth for Secretary of Defense, whom I talked about a few minutes ago. He had no qualifications to be Secretary of Defense. The only way he got through was arm-twisting from some Republicans who knew he shouldn't be in that position, and now Trump and the administration and Senate Republicans who voted for him are paying a price because it is so obvious he is screwing up left and right.

When you put in these bad nominees, you sneak them through or bludgeon them through, the administration and, unfortunately, the American people pay a very significant price. This nominee package is a perfect symbol of what this majority has been about from day one: bowing to Donald Trump, rubberstamping his unqualified loyalists, and chipping away at the Senate's role as a check on a highly abusive Executive.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, you just heard the minority leader. He came to the floor, and he said that the Democrats want a 3-year extension—3 full years—for Biden's COVID bonus payments with absolutely no change to the law; not a single reform to deal with the waste, the fraud, the abuse, and the corruption of these payments from ObamaCare, not a single one. They want to send billions of dollars—actually, it is likely to be \$100 billion—directly from the U.S. Treasury to insurance companies. Insurance companies are highly profitable, and that is their position: just send more U.S. dollars to insurance companies, just do a direct transfer of money.

Should I remind him—does he need to be reminded that the COVID problems are over? But they want to send another \$100 billion of Biden COVID bonus payments directly to insurance companies.

Remember, the Democrats shut down the Government of the United States for 43 days because of healthcare, because of ObamaCare. Actually, they wanted, at one point, to give money to illegal immigrants for healthcare. That was part of their demands, free healthcare for illegal immigrants, shut down the government, deny the American people the services they need, transportation, all of those things.

Think of the damage they did to the economy, the damage they did to the country by forcing the American people—43 days of the politics of pain and now the ongoing pain of having to live under ObamaCare with this failed healthcare system that we are living with today.

ObamaCare is a program that undermined healthcare in America. Democrats are saying they want to talk about ObamaCare. Let's talk about what has happened for the last 15 years. I am a doctor. I practiced medicine for 24 years in Wyoming before coming to the U.S. Senate. The Democrats refused to tell the American people—refused to even admit it to themselves, living in denial—that ObamaCare is broken, and it broke

healthcare in America. ObamaCare is a failure. ObamaCare is unaffordable.

Let me point out, not a single Republican voted for ObamaCare, not one. Premiums for people on ObamaCare have gone up over 220 percent since ObamaCare became law 15 years ago. For people that have ObamaCare, their deductibles have doubled. A family of four now pays \$10,000 more for the coverage today than it did before ObamaCare.

Competition for selling insurance in the United States has collapsed. In rural counties in my home State of Wyoming, your home State, Mr. President, of Oklahoma, people lost so many of the options they had to buy insurance. The insurance providers have dried up. Today, many counties are left with one provider only for people to buy from. Some counties have none. Rural hospitals are struggling.

More than 100 rural hospitals have closed since ObamaCare became law. Hundreds more are at risk because of the devastating effect of ObamaCare on healthcare in our Nation.

Let's go back and recall what President Obama told the Nation as he was promoting ObamaCare and every one of the Democrats voted for it, every single one of them. He said: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. He said: If you like your policy, you can keep your policy. These are the things that the President of the United States told the American people when Obama was in the White House. He went on to say probably the biggest lie of all. He said your insurance premiums would go down by \$2,500 a year for families.

Every single one of these was a lie. The American people see it. The American people—even the New York Times said that "ObamaCare is pricey." They said that about a month ago. The Washington Post admitted that ObamaCare was never affordable. These aren't my words; these are the words of the New York Times and the Washington Post.

How do Democrats continue to cover up the failure, to continue to mislead the American people? They tried to do it with government subsidies. They tried to cover up the failures of ObamaCare with government-paid subsidies—not to the American people but directly to the American insurance companies.

When they found out those subsidies weren't enough, what did they do when those juicy subsidies weren't carrying the day? They said: Let's add new subsidies on top of it, which is what they are talking about extending. Those new juicier subsidies today, they want to extend those for 3 more years.

They put them in place during COVID. They called them the Biden COVID bonus subsidies. Now they want to make them permanent. They want to extend them 3 years. Now they want to make them permanent, have the American people—have the Treasury of the United States send more money to

insurance companies as the cost of healthcare continues to climb.

When Biden was President, Democrats created these Biden COVID bonuses, new subsidies, added on top to prop up ObamaCare because it was falling. ObamaCare was toppling. Democrats said: We can't have this. Let's send hundreds of billions of more dollars to insurance companies.

Let's be very clear: The money does not go to the American people. It is a main line straight from the U.S. Government Treasury into the bank accounts of big insurance companies. The American people, the consumers, are cut out of the equation. American consumers have no way to say how the money is spent, and they need to have a voice in this. They have the government writing big checks.

There is no incentive to control costs. Zero incentive to compete. As a result, insurance companies continue to raise premiums as high as they want, and their profits continue to go up.

These increases aren't because the Biden COVID bonuses are expiring, although that is what the Democrats are trying to say. Remember, Democrats chose the date of the expiring of these subsidies when they put this into law in 2022. That is what they did. They had the House, Senate, White House and said: We are going to put more money in—even they realized COVID was going to be done by the end of this year—so they set this up as an expiring date. Now they realize: Oh, no, ObamaCare continues to topple over. We need to prop it up with more government money to insurance companies.

The end of these Biden COVID bonuses explain about 4 percent of next year's projected 20-percent spike in insurance premiums. These huge premium increases explain why the stock prices of insurance companies have soared for 500 to 1,000 percent since ObamaCare became law. That is what we are seeing. That is the reality of this. Big insurance companies, not the American people, are whom the Democrats continue to support financially.

Democrats created a system with zero accountability. Now they want to extend this broken system with these additional subsidies for another 3 years with zero reforms, nothing. They are not going after the waste, not going after the fraud, not going after the abuse. Oh, no, Democrats are happy paying massive subsidies, and for everybody, for people making over a quarter of a million dollars a year, people making over half a million dollars a year. Nope, keep sending the money over to the insurance companies for all their rich, fat-cat friends.

The Biden COVID bonuses are not improving patient care, I will tell you that as a doctor. For every taxpayer dollar spent on these subsidies, Americans believe they get about 34 cents of value. Where does the rest of the money go? Waste, fraud, abuse, and, yes, corruption.

How do we know there is corruption? Last year, the American people filed over 200,000 complaints with the Federal Government about that specific thing. They complained because they were unknowingly signed up or switched into ObamaCare plans, things they didn't choose, they didn't want, they didn't ask for. Those are 200,000 that complained. How many more were there that didn't know about it or didn't know enough or whom to complain to? Insurers signed up individuals for insurance plans they didn't even know they had. Biden COVID bonuses are an expensive, fraud-ridden failure, and the Democrats want to extend them for another 3 years.

Continuing to pour billions of dollars more into the pockets of big insurance companies without meaningful protection against fraud will not lower costs in healthcare. It will not help the American people. Republicans believe Americans deserve high-quality affordable care. It is not what people got under ObamaCare, not at all.

Republicans believe taxpayer dollars should go directly to hard-working people, not to the big insurance companies. Give buying power to the people. Let people make decisions. I trust the American people. You want to empower Americans to make their own decisions about healthcare, certainly, and about their own families and what the needs are for their family, what is right for them.

There is a clear divide between the Democrats and Republicans on healthcare. And on one side of the aisle, you have Democrats protecting a broken system with not a single plan to lower costs. On this side of the aisle, we have Republicans fighting to give people what they wanted all along, the care they need from a doctor they choose, at a price they can afford.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Massachusetts.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this past Saturday marked 50 years since the passing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1975.

Before IDEA, children with disabilities were often institutionalized or excluded from classrooms, deprived of the support needed to achieve their God-given potential. IDEA changed that by guaranteeing every child, regardless of ability, the right to a free and appropriate public education.

The IDEA said that every child—every child—is worthy of reaching their full potential and that the Federal Government ought to provide the resources to make that possible.

Massachusetts, the birthplace of public education, first passed a State law, section 766, which established the high legal standard that would be adapted

and expanded federally as IDEA. I was proud to vote for that bill, section 766, as a State representative—one of my first votes in my career. That bill then became the law for the entire country.

In the decades since the IDEA became Federal law, students, parents, educators, administrators, and support staff have worked tirelessly to deliver the promise of a world-class education to millions of students with disabilities. But far too many students with disabilities are still waiting for their shot at a meaningful education.

The Federal Government committed to funding 40 percent of the cost to school districts of implementing the IDEA, but Congress has never fully funded special education. Right now, the Federal Government is only covering 12 percent of the tab, and that is unacceptable.

Now President Trump and Education Secretary Linda McMahon are threatening the very foundation of public education. They are slashing education funding, stealing from children to give tax breaks to CEO billionaires and millionaires. It is Robin Hood in reverse. They are trying to destroy the Department of Education. When the Department first opened its doors, fewer than one in three students with a disability graduated from high school—only one in three. Today, that number is over 70 percent of kids with disabilities who graduate from high school. But instead of fighting to make that 100 percent, Trump and McMahon are attempting to send education for students with disabilities back to the Stone Age.

In their “Big Ugly Bill,” Trump and the MAGA Republicans doing his bidding also slashed Medicaid, which covers over \$8 billion of school-based health services delivered to students. Medicaid funding is the fourth largest Federal funding stream for public schools.

Two weeks ago, I visited the Campus School in Boston, which is a school for students with complex disabilities and extensive support needs. During my visit, I met Natalie, a middle school student, and her mom Julia. Natalie has Dup15q syndrome, which causes serious developmental, behavioral, and medical needs, such as frequent seizures. Natalie requires 24-hour caregiving support.

Natalie’s story demonstrates how crucial the IDEA is and how devastating Trump and MAGA Republicans’ cuts will be to families around the country.

In April of 2023, Natalie and her mom moved to Massachusetts to seek out a safe, accessible education for her, which she was not receiving in her home State. The implementation of IDEA and outcomes for students with disabilities vary dramatically across State lines. Now Natalie is receiving the support she needs to flourish. Her school has set up an individual education plan with goals for her academic achievement, occupational therapy, communication, and motor skills. Her

home school district is able to access funding from the State of Massachusetts, the IDEA, and Medicaid to cover Natalie’s educational costs.

Her school pays \$18 million each year to allow students like Natalie to receive the highest quality and best-fit school placements out of district. In turn, her school receives \$1.7 million from IDEA funding and \$500,000 in Medicaid funds to offset those costs—around 10 percent. If this Federal funding is jeopardized, the school, Natalie, and her peers, their educators, and their families will have no idea how to continue providing the level of education that these students not only deserve but are legally entitled to.

That includes the nurses, the teachers, the occupational therapists, and the school staff who work with Natalie. It includes the assistive technology that Natalie uses to communicate. Federal health and education funding give Natalie her voice. It also includes the transportation that Natalie receives to and from school each and every day.

Natalie’s disability does not preclude her ability or deny her the right to receive an excellent education. At school and at home, Natalie radiates joy because she is given the support she needs to flourish. Every student with a disability is worthy of that same support, inclusion, and joy.

Natalie’s mom Julia, with whom I spent a couple of hours talking, is among the strongest amongst us. Natalie’s mother navigates a world that is not yet designed for her daughter to thrive without ceaseless advocacy and effort. Yet Julia says what keeps her up at night is thinking of the thousands of children just like Natalie who don’t have the extensive support that her daughter has. I will tell you that Julia needs that help. It is 24 hours a day. She needs that help that is going to be slashed.

There are millions of students across America who are still fighting for what Natalie has and what is promised by the IDEA: an education that allows them to thrive. Because of Donald Trump, Linda McMahon, and MAGA Republicans, that promise is moving further and further out of reach.

At the same time, the education that Natalie currently receives is under threat. Natalie, her mom, her teachers, her school administrators—they all want to ensure that Natalie receives a world-class education, but a vision without funding is a hallucination. If the Federal funding and protections backstopping education for students with disabilities stop flowing, as insufficient as they may be right now, we will see a nationwide regression. We cannot let that happen to Natalie or to any child in our country. They deserve our Nation’s support.

As we look ahead to the next 50 years of the IDEA, our moral obligation to students with disabilities must not waver. We must, finally, fully fund the IDEA. We must forcefully reject the

Trump administration’s continued attacks on public education. Ultimately, we must make sure that every child in America—no matter what State they live in—is given the opportunity to excel and to thrive.

This anniversary is a call to action. Children are only 25 percent of our population, but they are 100 percent of our future. We must fight for them every single day. Natalie’s is a story that all of us must be aware of.

H.J. RES. 131

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I also rise today to oppose the effort to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to permanent, irreversible damage from the Big Oil industry.

This effort to overthrow the Biden administration’s Record of Decision for the management of the Arctic Refuge through the Congressional Review Act process will sow chaos, create legal uncertainty, and put the refuge into limbo. But we do have some certainty. Republicans know this will put our last most wild place at risk. It will put the rare caribou, polar bears, and wildlife that call the refuge home at risk. The Gwich’in people have said over and over that it puts their way of life at risk.

But this vote would also put business and legal certainty at risk—years of confusion, lawsuits, and paralysis all from this unnecessary resolution. And for what? This fossil fuel fiasco has been rejected time and time again by insurers, major banks, and oil and gas companies. They have said they won’t finance development in the refuge. They are even paid to get out of leases. Two failed lease sales, one of which was held under President Trump, should have been the end of this political theater, but they persist. And even before drilling, any fossil fuel exploration in the refuge will leave scars that will last for generations.

Instead of tackling our affordability crisis, instead of fighting the climate crisis, instead of protecting healthcare programs or fighting for the needs of special education students, this is what Republicans want to work on—an attempted favor for Big Oil executives.

This CRA resolution would jeopardize the Arctic Refuge—the greatest intact wildlife refuge in our Nation. It would jeopardize our chance at a livable future, and it would jeopardize the Gwich’in people’s way of life.

Our public lands belong in public hands. Yesterday, the President of the United States, with the auto industry of our country standing behind him, signed a new resolution saying that we are not going to try to increase fuel economy standards in our Nation. Do you know what the consequence of that is? They want to just put a big gas station up in the Arctic Refuge, and we will just start drilling for more oil because we don’t want to make our vehicles more efficient. We are going to cede the future of all-electric vehicles

to the Chinese and just pull out of the race rather than compete with them. At the same time, they are saying we will drill; that we will drill for oil in the most precious part of our national public lands. It is an absolute disgrace.

We are a technological giant. To give up on our ability to be able to make these vehicles more efficient is a death sentence for the most precious and vulnerable areas in our Nation. It is completely and totally irresponsible, immoral, and it is going to wind up with scarred oilfields all across these refuges that, unfortunately, were completely and totally avoidable.

Yesterday, President Trump signed, in many ways, the death warrant for all of these precious areas in our country because he pulled out of the race to increase the fuel economy standards—where we put the oil in the vehicles that we drive.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HALO ACT

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, last week, across America we were shocked, astonished, gutted. The night before our Nation paused to give thanks for the blessings in our lives—the night before Thanksgiving—two of our country's finest were shot down mere blocks away from the White House. Two young National Guardsmen, who had served their country like the Presiding Officer, who were doing their jobs of keeping us safe, were ambushed by a gunman here on asylum.

It was 20-year-old Sarah Beckstrom who tragically perished from her injuries and 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe who remains in critical, yet stable condition.

We all in the Senate and across America continue to pray for these guardsmen, for Andrew's recovery, and for their families and loved ones.

After the suspect started firing—and many missed the news on this—a National Guard major who was just doing his rounds was nearby, checking on other troops. He started running toward the gunfire, and all he had was a pocketknife. I would like to think everyone in this room would have the immediate response to do the same, but I think we would all pause and question: Would you, with a pocketknife, run toward gunfire to protect others?

There are heroes in this Nation who sign up to do that, like the Presiding Officer, who say that they will put their safety behind others. They will stand as a guardsman of their fellow countrymen, and that is what this man did. He rushed toward danger to protect other people. I am so grateful that there are heroes like him in our country.

Last week—just a few days ago—in my home State of Florida, Sergeant Erik LeVasseur, from Port St. Lucie, while doing his job as a law enforcement officer, was shot in the face when

he responded to a call for help. These attacks, threats, and harassment cannot begin to feel commonplace in our country—not in our States, not in our cities. We cannot get used to this, and we should always be outraged when they occur.

Unfortunately, a tragedy like this is happening time and time again in a growing stream of incidents across our country, wherein our Nation's guardians, with whatever badge they wear and whatever oath they have taken—from our guardsmen to our Federal law enforcement, to our State law enforcement heroes—are being targeted.

Then I hear dire language from the speaker before me—using the term “death warrant” as it related to an issue—but they won't fully engage and stand up against those who are supporting groups that are targeting our heroes.

An attack on those who enforce our Nation's laws is an attack on what this country was built on. It is an attack on the people's law. Indeed, it is an attack on the rule of law.

Over the last 10 months, our Federal officers and agents have faced a dangerously escalating pattern of violence, ranging from hitting, spitting, kicking, and biting during arrests to vehicle-ramming, open gunfire, and throwing Molotov cocktails—all because they are doing their jobs that they took an oath to do to protect other human beings. From January 21, 2024, through November 21, 2024, there were only 19 recorded assaults against ICE law enforcement. At the same time this year, ICE law enforcement has faced 238 reported assaults. It is a 1,153-percent increase in assaults on those law enforcement officers.

These nationwide incidents show how officers are being targeted because of the badge they wear, because of the oath they take. And you know in many, many instances, they are going after people who have repeatedly harmed American citizens. The attacks are not just on the enforcement operations; they are an attack on the officers themselves.

Incredibly, incredibly radical, Democrat-led cities and States in this country are using taxpayer money to encourage the harassment and obstruction of our law enforcement officers in the United States of America.

I just introduced the Halo Act to protect Federal officers while they conduct their official duties, and I am proud to say that this week, more of my colleagues have signed up to co-sponsor this important legislation. They have said: No more. Our heroes have to be able to do their jobs to protect us without feeling threatened in the execution of their duties.

The legislation would make it illegal for anyone, after being told to stay back, to knowingly come within 25 feet of a Federal officer that is trying to do their job if the intent is to interfere with the officer's work or threaten physical harm.

You know, personally, I am the wife of a law enforcement officer. It is incredibly dangerous, as they are trying to execute official duties, to have people interfere with them. The distraction of not being totally focused on what they are doing endangers not only them but those around them, and we have seen that happen in this country.

I expect every one of the colleagues in this U.S. Senate to speak out against that, to stand up for the people we ask to take an oath to stand in harm's way to protect us. It is the very least they could do—to use words of support for them. My guess is you will hear utter silence on that side of the Chamber.

This act is modeled after something we have done in my great home State of Florida, where we are the most pro-law enforcement State in the Nation. I was proud to say that, and I worked towards that in my time as attorney general in the great State of Florida. That is why not only are we leading in the Nation in people wanting to move to our State for protection, the people who are doing that protection, our law enforcement officers, are coming from all over this Nation, uprooting their families, to be Florida heroes because they know we have their back. We need to do that for all of our heroes across this Nation, and it needs to start right here in the Senate.

It takes a truly special person to answer that call, whether that is in our military or in our law enforcement professions—and I am proud to be the wife of a law enforcement officer—to be the one that runs towards danger to help others like that courageous National Guard major last week.

They shouldn't be worried while they are doing their jobs unnecessarily by people wanting to target them or attack them. Indeed, if it weren't for our Nation's heroes, our society would fail, our rule of law could not exist.

I came here to DC to fight for these heroes like you, and it is a battle. There are those that will stand up and fight for our heroes, and there are those that will not even remain just silent, they will actively work against them and support groups that are targeting them. It is battle, and it is one we must win. There is not an option.

For our heroes' sake, for our country's sake, for the success of this great American experiment, living as a free man under the rule of law, I urge my colleagues to have our officers' backs while they cover ours.

I hope they will join me in supporting my Halo Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator HYDE-SMITH for up to 5 minutes and Senator MURKOWSKI for up to 3 minutes, prior to the scheduled roll-call vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.J. RES. 131

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak on the 11:30 vote we are about to have. And I come because I want to speak against the effort to overturn the land management plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Congress established the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980 to protect the diverse and unique, very fragile ecosystem located on 20 million acres in the northeast corner of Alaska. However, at the time, Congress failed to permanently protect 1.5 million acres of Coastal Plain, the biological beating heart of this incredible wilderness—a wilderness that is often called America's Serengeti; that is because of the hundreds of thousands of caribou that migrate and depend on these lands. Herds that Alaska Native Tribes rely on for subsistence and they have been an essential piece of their traditional culture and way of life.

Because it is one of the largest remaining untouched ecosystems on our entire planet, I believe we should strive hard to protect it. It is so unique. People do want to travel there. But many would like to ignore the fact that it is a fragile and irreplaceable beauty that lives along the Coastal Plain in order to search for oil and gas that may lie beneath.

The battle has been the subject of many intense congressional debates for decades. So far, we have been able to protect the Coastal Plain and keep it intact, as it has been for millions of years. And many Americans had hoped we had moved on. That is, moved on because even the oil companies have said, by virtue of not wanting to pay for any leases, that this area is not a good place to drill.

Some companies even paid to get out of their leases. I say moved on because, time and time again, insurers and major banks have pledged not to finance development in the refuge. The two failed lease sales under both the Trump and Biden administrations should have been the end to all of this, and that is because we were supposed to raise \$2 billion. In fact, when the language was passed, they said, well, we will raise \$2 billion, but they have actually only raised a few million.

So, in other words, this vote is about whether we want to spoil one of the last great pristine spots on planet Earth for what the market says is worth a few million dollars. I know, especially in Europe, there is a lot of tourism in the Arctic today. There are many people that want the last frontier experience and are paying for cruise ships that actually have ice-breaking capacity to travel to the Arctic Circle.

Why aren't we encouraging the same kind of tourism? And I think what makes even less sense about the future

is that, why would we vote to destroy something so fragile and so irreplaceable when we have a choice?

I want to point out that using the Congressional Review Act to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could very well backfire on our drilling advocates. If Congress votes to overturn the Biden record of decision today, it would create legal and regulatory chaos, not clarity.

That is because it would revive the Trump era leasing plan that is legally flawed and under active litigation, effectively leaving no valid framework for how leasing could proceed. Just a way of saying, my guess is, it would have more lawsuits that would be easier to attack. That is because the CRA, if signed into law, the Department of the Interior couldn't reissue a similar rule, and the old leasing program did have serious legal deficiencies.

Contrast that with the existing record of decision, which followed science, law, and public input and balancing environmental protections and resource extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

So I hope we won't make an irrevocable, irredeemable mistake in the Senate today by voting to overturn a science-based record of decision that was done by the book and with the public input. We should be hammering out a bipartisan agreement instead on other major issues like healthcare affordability or finding other ways to reduce the cost of living.

But this administration has opened up all drilling all over the United States for oil and gas production, and yet it isn't much higher than the record levels that were achieved during the Biden administration. That is even after the Big Beautiful Bill gave nearly \$6 billion in tax breaks this year for some of the biggest oil and gas companies.

So we gave huge, massive tax breaks that could have gone into paying for affordable healthcare, and instead, we gave them to oil companies. And yet we are not really producing much more than we have been producing under the last administration.

Even after we have seen the repeal of dozens of environmental regulations that protected America's health the oil companies had complained about. Even after the administration opened millions of acres in the sensitive lands, including the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and millions of offshore acres, even when coastal residents are screaming they don't want these oil rigs off their coast.

So it isn't producing the effect that some of my colleagues hoped. So this is not a CRA we should vote for. We should oppose the CRA and keep the land management that is in place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE SYSTEM

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to a critical safety issue that affects every American who travels our roads and highways.

Across the country, we are seeing a disturbing rise in deadly accidents involving large commercial trucks driven by individuals who should have never been behind the wheel to begin with, often foreign nationals in the country illegally who exploited weaknesses in our commercial driver's license or CDL system.

We have seen the video of the horrific crash in Florida where an undocumented immigrant driving an 18-wheeler made an illegal U-turn on the interstate, killing three Americans who should be with us here today.

In mid-October, a semi-truck driver in California, in the United States illegally, with an immigration detainer notice, was accused of being intoxicated when he slammed into multiple vehicles, killing three people and injuring several more.

Sadly, incidents like this are becoming far too common, and we must ask why. The answer lies in failed policies.

Under previous Democratic administrations, safety enforcement was weakened, loopholes were opened, and fraudulent CDL issuance went unchecked. Under the Obama administration, inspectors were directed to issue citations rather than take unsafe commercial vehicle drivers completely off the road—a policy decision that has resulted in loss of life.

Meanwhile, open border policies of prior administrations would have allowed illegal immigrants to enter the United States freely which, combined with lax Federal oversight, has let some States issue CDLs without proper language or competency testing.

A Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration audit prompted by President Trump found that multiple States issued nondomiciled CDLs improperly to unqualified, often foreign drivers, even in some instances allowing them to keep licenses after their legal status expired.

In the Florida case, the FMCSA investigation revealed that the driver had failed the English language proficiency test, answering only 2 out of the 12 verbal questions correctly. Yet multiple States still allowed him to hold a valid CDL and operate a commercial vehicle on our roads.

The ongoing FMCSA audit revealed systemic violations by many States—including California, Washington, and New Mexico—that simply fail to follow Federal laws and regulations as they issue CDLs, which has resulted in greater threats to public safety.

After Secretary Duffy's criticism about California's lack of policy enforcement and threat to revoke Federal funding, California announced the revocation of 17,000 CDLs that were given to immigrants without valid visas. This means California has been allowing thousands of unqualified drivers to

operate throughout the country. I thank this administration and Secretary Duffy for taking action to hold States accountable for their mistakes.

While some States look the other way, my home State of Mississippi has tried to rein in this abuse in the trucking industry. Mississippi has taken decisive action and, in just the last 3 months alone, has identified 85 illegal drivers and referred them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The State of Mississippi does not issue nondomiciled licenses and strictly enforces English language proficiency testing to keep our roads safe. My State is doing its part, but States cannot do this alone. The Federal Government must close these loopholes and enforce the law.

As chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, I successfully included language in the fiscal year 2026 bill and report that builds upon the President's Executive order to strengthen English proficiency requirements for commercial drivers.

I am also a proud cosponsor of Senator MARSHALL's Commercial Motor Vehicle English Proficiency Act to ensure all applicants for CDLs must pass the English proficiency test in English and not in any other language.

This commonsense measure would help guarantee that all truckdrivers can read traffic signs, communicate with law enforcement, and understand directions clearly and safely.

In addition, I cosponsored Senator MOODY's Safer Truckers Act, which restricts the issuance of CDLs to only U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals who are authorized for employment by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration services.

These are commonsense reforms to restore integrity, accountability, and safety to our highways. At the same time, I commend the Trump administration for taking action on this front, particularly Secretary Noem and law enforcement officials who recently carried out Operation Midway Blitz.

This enforcement action led to the arrest of 223 illegal aliens, 146 of whom were truckdrivers. And just a few weeks ago, ICE announced the arrest of a man from Uzbekistan with a Pennsylvania CDL who was allowed in our country by the Biden administration even though he was wanted by the Government of Uzbekistan because of his links to a terrorist organization.

Needless to say, seeing ICE and State law enforcement come together to make America's roads safer is a step in the right direction. Republicans in the Senate and this administration remain committed to protecting American lives and keeping our roads safe. One key to do that is to ensure CDL holders are here legally and are proficient in the English language and can actually read road signs.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 131, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 131

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 632 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Bennet	Blunt Rochester
Baldwin	Blumenthal	Booker

Cantwell	Kaine	Rosen
Collins	Kelly	Sanders
Coons	Kim	Schatz
Cortez Masto	King	Schumer
Duckworth	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Durbin	Lujan	Smith
Fetterman	Markley	Van Hollen
Gallego	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Murray	Warnock
Hassan	Ossoff	Warren
Heinrich	Padilla	Welch
Hickenlooper	Peters	Whitehouse
Hirono	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Graham	Murphy	Shaheen
Moran	Schiff	Tuberville

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S.J. Res. 91

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, S.J. Res. 91 is indefinitely postponed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, please state your inquiry.

Mr. BENNET. The precedent of September 11, 2025, that established a majority threshold vote for cloture on an executive resolution that provided for the en bloc consideration of nominations excluded nominations at level 1 of the Executive Schedule under 5 U.S.C. 5312 or article III judges. Is that correct, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. BENNET. I am sorry to say, this slate of nominations in S. Res. 520 includes Calendar No. 476, Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy. That position is among those listed in 5 U.S.C. 5312. Therefore, the threshold for cloture on this vote would be three-fifths of those duly chosen and sworn. Is that correct, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. BENNET. I object.

Mr. TILLIS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, David McCormick, Ted Budd.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. Res. 520, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 633 Ex.]

YEAS—43

Barrasso	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Curtis	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Justice
Britt	Ernst	Kennedy
Budd	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Grassley	Lee
Collins	Hagerty	Lummis
Cornyn	Hawley	Marshall
Cotton	Hoeven	Moreno
Cramer	Husted	Mullin

Murkowski
Paul
Ricketts
Risch
Rounds

Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Wicker
Young

NAYS—37

Alsobrooks
Baldwin
Bennet
Blunt Rochester
Booker
Cantwell
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Hassan

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kim
Klobuchar
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murray
Padilla
Peters
Reed

Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—20

Banks
Blumenthal
Cassidy
Cruz
Gallego
Graham
Kelly

King
McConnell
McCormick
Moody
Moran
Murphy
Ossoff

Sanders
Schiff
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Slotkin
Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 37. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Rodriguez nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

VOTE ON RODRIGUEZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rodriguez nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 634 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Banks
Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Cruz
Curtis
Durbin
Ernst
Fischer

Gallego
Grassley
Hagerty
Hassan
Hawley
Hirono
Hoeven
Husted
Johnson
Justice
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell

McCormick
Moreno
Mullin
Murkowski
Paul
Reed
Ricketts
Risch
Rosen
Rounds
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Wicker
Young

NAYS—32

Alsobrooks
Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt Rochester
Booker
Cantwell
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Fetterman
Gillibrand

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Kim
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Sanders

Schatz
Schumer
Slotkin
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Wyden

NOT VOTING—11

Daines
Graham
Hyde-Smith
Kennedy

Moody
Moran
Murphy
Schiff

Shaheen
Tuberville
Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have a little over 2 weeks before the Christmas recess, and we still have a lot of work to do here in the U.S. Senate, including passing a fully conferenced National Defense Authorization Act bill—by that, I mean reconcile the differences between the House version and the Senate version and get it to the President for his signature. There are many different players across both the House and the Senate, and they have to come together to make this happen.

Of course, we all have different priorities, but our main priority ought to be the welfare and the training and the equipment of our men and women in the military and their ability to protect all of us. But we can't forget about the real-world consequences of the

policies we are legislating. It matters, what ends up in and what ends up out of this bill at the end of the day. With something like the annual Defense bill, these decisions can have life-or-death consequences.

So as the National Defense Authorization Act comes to a close, I have been pushing to ensure that several provisions, including addressing outbound investment transparency, are included in the final legislation.

It is no secret to any of us that China is our near-peer competitor, and they don't have benign intentions with regard to the United States. They want to dominate the United States economically and militarily.

President Xi, the head of the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese Communist Party have threatened time after time after time to forcibly attack Taiwan and to consolidate Taiwan with mainland China.

We also know that the battle for the future of the world will literally be determined by who wins the race for artificial intelligence, which is heavily reliant on the production of advanced semiconductors and other advanced microelectronics.

These technologies—and this is really important—have both commercial and military applications, but in China, anything that is developed or possessed by a commercial entity has to be shared with the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army. They call that military-civil fusion. So it means that any progress that they make, including on something as sophisticated and cutting edge as artificial intelligence, has to be shared and will be shared with their military.

On Tuesday, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy held a hearing on China's challenge to America's leadership when it comes to artificial intelligence. We heard expert testimony from four witnesses on the challenges that the United States faces in staying ahead of China in this critical sector.

Each of these witnesses emphasized the importance of export controls, controlling what technology goes from the United States into China, where they can then use that to compete with us and potentially even beat us in the AI race.

One quoted a senior executive at a Chinese AI firm, who said that Chinese companies have to use two to four times the computing power to achieve the same results for large model training because of U.S. restrictions on AI chips. Now, this is a good thing; however, export controls, while an effective tool, are not simple or straightforward, and the Chinese Government is really good—like the Russians—at circumventing sanctions and different restrictions—in this case, on cutting-edge technology.

The United States must take care to ensure that our export controls are

properly enforced as PRC shell companies have ways of working around these trade controls in order to acquire American semiconductors and other controlled products. Unfortunately, sometimes it seems like a game of Whac-A-Mole because one company will pop its head up, and we will deal with that, but then they change the name, and it is the same thing under a different name.

It is not just the chips themselves that we have to keep a tight grip on but the machinery we use to make them. Many of the intermediary parts, such as lithography machines, are produced by our allies, like the Dutch ASML, which makes the leading-edge, advanced, ultraviolet lithography that is necessary to produce the most advanced semiconductor chips, but other countries, like South Korea, Japan, and Germany, are also part of that supply chain of critical equipment and machinery. Working and winning the AI race means we have to work hand in glove with our allies to ensure that these technologies are not acquired by the PRC, and we know the stakes if we don't accomplish that job.

In the same way that China has captured the supply chain for the production of processing critical minerals, they have designs to capture the manufacturing capacity for advanced semiconductors. Then they will do what they have always done, which is undercut worldwide competitors with government subsidies and then corner the market so that they become the only supplier, holding the rest of the world hostage.

Of course, there is the fact that China has never seen a piece of intellectual property that they aren't willing to steal, so by hook or crook, they are going to try to outcompete us, and we need to maintain our diligence and be vigilant when it comes to this threat.

China is aggressively investing resources towards winning this race for artificial intelligence, and we cannot aid them in winning the race through U.S. investments in China. That is where this piece of legislation called outbound investment transparency comes in.

One of the ways that China has built its mammoth manufacturing capacity is when American companies go into China and massively invest in manufacturing capabilities there. There is plenty that has been written on this topic. Apple, Tesla, and other major companies have gone into China because of the lower cost of manufacturing, and the Chinese, unsurprisingly, have learned these manufacturing processes to now where they have become some of the very best in the world. But we have to make sure at minimum that we aren't blindly watching American investments into China in technology that could later be used to kill American marines or American soldiers in a future conflict in the Indo-Pacific.

Some estimates show that as of 2020, a total of U.S. investments in Chinese companies totaled \$2.3 trillion. Now, that is a lot of money, and if it wasn't available to the Chinese economy and Chinese manufacturing, it would make it harder for them to compete against us. This \$2.3 trillion in market value includes \$21 billion in semiconductor investment, \$54 billion in military companies—U.S. companies investing in Chinese military companies to the tune of \$54 billion—and \$221 billion in artificial intelligence.

Again, because of China's military-civil fusion policy, we are not just investing in commercial applications of these technologies; every American dollar that is invested in these critical sectors in China is directly fueling the arsenal of our greatest strategic adversary.

Let me say that again. Every dollar that Americans invest in China in these critical sectors is directly fueling the arsenal of our greatest strategic adversary.

It is suicidal for the United States to see American dollars flow to China for the development of military technologies that very well could be used one day to kill American soldiers.

This is not a priority we can afford to kick down the road. Anyone who dismisses the threat of outbound investment is blind—blind—to the threat of the Chinese Communist Party and, I would argue, is working against the best interests of this country.

I have been working for years to try to make sure that we have this provision in the Defense authorization bill. We had one vote I think 3 years ago on a defense authorization bill; it was 92 to 6. So this is a bipartisan concern, as it should be, but for one reason or another, every time a bill comes across from the House through a conference, this provision seems to drop out, and that is because, frankly, of some of the people who financially benefit from the status quo and who do not want us to have, as policymakers, any transparency into Americans who invest in China to help them defeat us, whether militarily or in the race for AI.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

So I am glad that, at this point in the negotiations, the House and the Senate are prioritizing this provision in the final version of this year's NDAA. If we do not address outbound investment transparency, then we are playing to lose the AI race and risk the lives of American servicemembers and a potential conflict in the Indo-Pacific.

The time to act was yesterday, but the next best time to act is today. This fight to address outbound investment transparency has been going on for many years, but I look forward to finally declaring victory when President Trump signs the National Defense Authorization Act into law, which I hope is very soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 571.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 571, Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 572.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 572, William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 573.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 573, James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. RES. 532

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 532) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, had I been present and voting on rollcall No. 628, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 474, Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. I would have voted yea.

S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed

in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, dated December 3, 2025, expressing strong support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131, joint resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of the Bureau of Land Management's 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program RECORD of Decision under the Congressional Review Act.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

KAKTOVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION,

December 3, 2025.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICHOLAS BEGICH III,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: On behalf of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC) and our shareholders, I am writing to express our strong support for S.J. Res. 91, the resolution disapproving the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision under the Congressional Review Act.

KIC is the village corporation for Kaktovik, established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to manage surface estate, support economic self-determination, and protect the long-term interests of our Inupiat shareholders. Kaktovik is the only community located within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and KIC holds significant ANCSA lands within the Coastal Plain lands that Congress specifically conveyed to our people so that local Inupiat not distant federal agencies, would have a central voice in decisions about our homeland.

For decades, KIC has participated constructively in every federal process affecting the 1002 Area. We have consistently supported responsible, science-based resource development because we live here, we understand this place better than anyone, and our community depends both on a healthy environment and a stable local economy.

SUPPORT FOR S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

S.J. Res. 91, introduced by Senator Murkowski and co-sponsored by Senator Sullivan, and its companion measure in the House, H.J. Res. 131, introduced by Representative Begich, are identical resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of BLM's 2024 Coastal Plain ROD (hereinafter referred to as the 2024 ROD) and subsequent Government Accountability Office (GAO) conclusion that such record of decision is a rule.

These resolutions are necessary because the Biden administration's 2024 ROD undermines responsible resource development required by law, disregards ANCSA, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), and ignores the voices of the only people who live on the Coastal Plain.

BACKGROUND: THE HISTORY OF FEDERAL DIRECTION ON THE COASTAL PLAIN

The Coastal Plain has long been recognized by Congress as an area with substantial energy potential and is an area where development was explicitly authorized for mineral leasing under P.L. 115-97 (Tax Cuts and Jobs Act).

WHY THE 2024 ROD IS HARMFUL TO KAKTOVIK AND ANCSA RIGHTS

2024 ROD:
Ignores the statutory mandate for area-wide leasing.

Disregards congressional limits on habitat closures and surface disturbance.

Undermines ANCSA village lands specifically conveyed to KIC for local benefit.

Removes opportunities that Congress intended to support Inupiat economic self-determination.

Threatens the revenue streams, jobs, and infrastructure our community relies on.

Discounts Kaktovik's longstanding record of supporting environmentally responsible development.

Kaktovik—the only community in the entire Refuge—bears the full weight of the impacts. Yet our voice was minimized while outside interests were elevated over the rights and concerns of the people who live here and are the most impacted by these decisions. The process in the development of the 2024 ROD, disregarded our local indigenous knowledge, our rights to consultation and the Secretary for the Department of the Interior's own orders for meaningful consultation.

The 2020 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2020 program) included robust protections for wildlife and sensitive habitats and was supported by the elected leadership from the North Slope and Kaktovik. The development of the 2020 program followed a transparent process that incorporated meaningful consultation with our community, recognizing the connection between economic self-determination, our community and our culture.

Restoring the 2020 program ROD and overturning the 2024 ROD as a rule is consistent with the FY 2025 reconciliation bill, which requires four lease sales over the next decade. Secretary Burgum has already reinstated the 2020 program ROD, and both the Senate and House measures ensure future administrations cannot disregard federal law or sideline our people and communities.

BOTTOM LINE: THE 2024 ROD MUST BE NULLIFIED

The 2024 ROD's restrictive approach is unlawful, unworkable, and deeply harmful to our people whose lands and livelihoods are directly affected.

S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131:

Upholds federal law

Defends Congress's authority

Restores the 2020 program

Strengthens U.S. energy security

Respects Inupiat voices, including Kaktovik

Protects ANCSA rights and village corporation lands

Ensures a fair and functional leasing program going forward

KIC appreciates your leadership in standing with our community and ensuring that the laws governing our homeland are followed. We urge swift passage of S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131.

Thank you for your continued support of Kaktovik and the Inupiat people of the North Slope.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LAMPE,

President, Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING 80 YEARS OF YOUNG'S GROCERY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Young's Grocery and the Young family of Earle, AR, whose remarkable commitment to serving their community has endured for more than 80 years.

Since its founding, Young's Grocery has stood as a local cornerstone, serv-

ing as a gathering place and a source of essentials for their neighbors. Generations of the Young family have carried forward this tradition, ensuring that their neighbors could count on their store not only for food, but also for kindness, fellowship and a helping hand.

Today, Charlie and Liz Young continue to uphold this proud legacy. Their dedication to serving others has strengthened the bonds of their community and exemplified what smalltown service looks like at its best. Through their daily interactions with neighbors and their willingness to boost local initiatives, the Young family embodies the spirit of service that underpins communities throughout the Natural State.

I had the privilege of visiting Young's Grocery several years ago and witnessed firsthand the warmth and hospitality that have made this store such a vital part of Earle. That visit reaffirmed what its residents already know: The Young family's work is not simply about running a business but about sustaining a tradition of care and connection.

That proud reputation was rightfully honored last month when mayor Jaylen Smith honored Charlie and Liz Young and their family for their outstanding contributions to the community. This recognition is a fitting tribute that represents countless lives touched while standing as a beacon of continuity and care for more than 80 years.

I am proud to join in celebrating the Young family and Young's Grocery. Their story is a powerful reminder that small, family-owned businesses are vital to the fabric of Arkansas, enriching our communities through service, tradition, and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO CHAD WOLFE

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Chad Wolfe of Missouri. Over his life, Mr. Wolfe has consistently shown an outstanding commitment to serving his country and fellow Americans in all his endeavors. After enlisting in the U.S. Army in 2012, Mr. Wolfe served two tours in Afghanistan and demonstrated remarkable valor. After his exceptional service, he retired from the armed forces highly decorated, receiving multiple awards including the Army Commendation Medal and no less than six Army Achievement Medals.

After joining the civilian workforce upon his return to the States, Mr. Wolfe has continued his work to serve his fellow veterans with the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment, SLATE, where he provides crucial employment and support services to veteran households across St. Louis. As SLATE celebrates its 50th anniversary, I am proud to highlight both Mr. Wolfe and the entire SLATE team for their outstanding daily work to help our Republic's brave veterans transition to civilian life.

Chad Wolfe is truly an example of our State's Heartland Heroes. He has continually gone above and beyond to support his fellow Americans, and I am grateful for his ongoing commitment to helping the military community. I am honored by his devotion and wish him continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN SINGLETARY

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Dan Singletary and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. Over his remarkable 40-year career with Howell-Oregon Electric Cooperative, Mr. Singletary has demonstrated outstanding dedication to ensuring top-tier service for the co-op's members. Not long after beginning his service with Howell-Oregon, Dan was selected to serve as the associate manager, then general manager of the organization, and can proudly claim to be the longest serving leader in the co-op's history.

In his free time, Mr. Singletary's selfless character continues to speak for itself. Outside of the workplace, he has volunteered his time for utility cooperatives across the State and has served on the leadership board of Missouri Electric Cooperatives Insurance Plan, Sho-Me Electric Power Cooperative, and the Associated Electric Cooperative. He has more than earned his place in the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives' Hall of Fame. I am proud to call Mr. Dan Singletary a fellow Missourian, and he has done the Show-Me-State proud. I wish him all the best as he begins his well-earned retirement this coming January.●

TRIBUTE TO JADA BERRY

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Jada Berry for her hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this fall.

Jada is a native of Sheridan, WY. She currently attends Montana State University, where she is studying to obtain a degree in political science. Jada has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Jada for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this fall, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO KENADI McCULLOCH

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Kenadi McCulloch for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this fall.

Kenadi is a native of Missoula, MT. She recently finished her studies at The George Washington University,

where she obtained a degree in art history. Kenadi has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Kenadi for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this fall, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO ELLA OWEN

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ella Owen for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this fall.

Ella is a native of Hammond, MT. She attends The George Washington University, where she is studying to obtain a master's degree in political science. Ella has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Ella for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this fall, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO RAPHI REBUCAS

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Raphi Rebucas for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this fall.

Raphi is a native of Torrance, CA. He attends The George Washington University, where he is studying to obtain degrees in political science and peace studies. Raphi has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Raphi for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this fall, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO HAILEY STORY

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Hailey Story for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this fall.

Hailey is a native of Franklin, TN. She recently finished her studies at East Tennessee State University, where she obtained a degree in political science. Hailey has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Hailey for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this fall, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 3043), I have enclosed the National Security Strategy of the United States of America.

This National Security Strategy sets forth the guidance and direction for my Administration's foreign policy and details the goals and objectives that will deliver a new Golden Age for America.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 2, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1005. An act to require public elementary and secondary schools to disclose certain funds received from, or contracts with, a foreign source, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1049. An act to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1069. An act to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China.

H.R. 2965. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not greater than zero, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4305. An act to direct the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to establish a Red Tape Hotline to receive notifications of burdensome agency rules, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Clerk of the House appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Benjamin Francis-Fallon of Washington, DC.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1005. An act to require public elementary and secondary schools to disclose certain funds received from, or contracts with, a foreign source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1049. An act to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1069. An act to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2965. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that the small business regulatory budget for a small business concern in a fiscal year is not greater than zero, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4305. An act to direct the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to establish a Red Tape Hotline to receive notifications of burdensome agency rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3174. An act to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, and for other purposes.

The following resolution was read, and placed on the Executive calendar:

S. Res. 532. A resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 532. A resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2198. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2199. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems; Quality Reporting Programs; Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings; Hospital Price Transparency; and Notice of Closure of a Teaching Hospital and Opportunity to Apply for Available Slots" (RIN0938-AV51) (CMS-1834-FC) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2200. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program, and End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Model" (RIN0938-AV52) (CMS-1830-F) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2201. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for Individual Taxpayers who received Qualified Tips or Qualified Overtime Compensation in 2025" (Notice 2025-69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2202. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Guidance Regarding Interest on Loans Secured by Rural or Agricultural Real Property under Section 139L of the Internal Revenue Code" (Notice 2025-71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2203. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excise Tax on Repurchase of Corporate Stock" (RIN1545-BQ59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 3342. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3343. A bill to provide for additional funding for grants for reemployment services and eligibility assessments through a reduction in funds in the Presidential Election Campaign Fund; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3344. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities with respect to Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3345. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure accurate payments to pharmacies under Medicaid and prevent the use of abusive spread pricing in Medicaid, and to assure pharmacy access and choice for Medicare beneficiaries and modernize and ensure PBM accountability under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3346. A bill to establish a special registration under the Controlled Substances Act for schedule I eligible investigational drugs under the Federal Right to Try law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3347. A bill to require the Department of Transportation to require airlines to provide consumers experiencing significant flight disruptions or cancellations cash compensation, free rebooking, and reimbursement for amenities, such as meals, lodging for overnight delays, and transportation to and from lodging; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3348. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 3349. A bill to clarify the requirement to disclose direct and indirect compensation from entities providing pharmacy benefit management services or third party administration services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3350. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3351. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a qualifying investment, for purposes

of the exemption from registration for venture capital fund advisers under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, to include an equity security issued by a qualifying portfolio company and to include an investment in another venture capital fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3352. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit rollover contributions from Roth IRAs to designated Roth accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3353. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3354. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require disclosures with respect to robocalls using artificial intelligence and to provide for enhanced penalties for certain violations involving artificial intelligence voice or text message impersonation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KELLY, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. 3355. A bill to establish a national strategy for combating scams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3356. A bill to reduce and eliminate threats posed by nuclear weapons to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3357. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to update the amount of Social Security lump sum death payments and index lump sum death payments to inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3358. A bill to assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3359. A bill to increase rates of college completion and reduce college costs by accelerating time to degree, aligning secondary and postsecondary education, and improving postsecondary credit transfer; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 3360. A bill to require a report on internet freedom in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3361. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to require approval by the National Capital Planning Commission of certain improvements to the White House or the grounds of the White House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3362. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations

on contributions to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 3363. A bill to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to publish information related to public assistance awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3364. A bill to clarify the time period for registering health care apprenticeships under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act") and require the digitization of apprenticeship agreement forms under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3365. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANFORD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3366. A bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 3367. A bill to limit and eliminate excessive, hidden, and unnecessary fees imposed on consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3368. A bill to improve patient protections and affordability under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3369. A bill to establish a public health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KING):

S. 3370. A bill to modify the penalties for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1993; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 3371. A bill to designate the Museum of the Blind People's Movement in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "National Museum of the Blind People's Movement"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3372. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude qualified wildfire relief payments from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3373. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14855 South Van Dyke Road in Plainfield, Illinois, as the "Staff Sergeant Jose Duenez Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. KIM):

S. 3374. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to prohibit the issuance of licenses for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of advanced integrated circuits to or in foreign adversaries; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3375. A bill to amend the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act to modify the program for Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native culture and arts development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3376. A bill to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of technologies to combat cargo theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3377. A bill to delay the implementation of a rule relating to the importation of sheep and goats and products derived from sheep and goats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3378. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish name, image, and likeness investment accounts for student-athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3379. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in grants for reemployment services and eligibility assessments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3380. A bill to provide for a minimum monthly premium payment amount for individuals receiving premium tax credits, and to require additional enrollment verification procedures prior to enrollment in qualified health plans; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 529. A resolution condemning anti-Palestinian hatred on the anniversary of the attack in Burlington, Vermont, on November 25, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 530. A resolution condemning the pardon of ex-Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 531. A resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on November 29, 2025, and recognizing its transformative impact on the education of children with disabilities; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 532. A resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; submitted and read.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to require online dating service providers to provide fraud ban notifications to online dating service members, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that the Federal Communications Commission may not take action against a broadcast licensee or any other person on the basis of viewpoint, and for other purposes.

S. 942

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 1282

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1282, a bill to codify the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program of the Department of Agriculture.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to enhance United States support for identifying and recovering Ukrainian children who were abducted by the Russian Federation, and to hold accountable those who are responsible for such abductions.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2265

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2265, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California, and the 2034 Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

S. 2511

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2511, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 2621

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2621, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for State-based maternal mortality review committees, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to disseminate best practices on maternal mortality prevention to hospitals, State-based professional societies, and perinatal quality collaboratives, and for other purposes.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to provide that the rule relating to "Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance and Independent, Non-coordinated Excepted Benefits Coverage" shall have no force or effect.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide

an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to prohibit health care professionals, hospitals, or clinics from participating in the chemical or surgical mutilation of a child and to provide a private right of action for children and the parents of children whose healthy body parts have been damaged by medical professionals practicing chemical and surgical mutilation.

S. 3010

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3010, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other purposes.

S. 3113

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3113, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify that aliens who have been convicted of defrauding the United States Government or unlawfully receiving public benefits are inadmissible and deportable.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3220, a bill to transfer \$160,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund to Brand USA.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3257, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes.

S. 3279

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3279, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 3297

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3297, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily reinstate the biodiesel fuels credit, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3348. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3348

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dream Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, any term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) APPLICABLE FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY.—The term “applicable Federal tax liability” means liability for Federal taxes imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including any penalties and interest on Federal taxes imposed under that Code.

(3) ARMED FORCES.—The term “Armed Forces” has the meaning given the term “armed forces” in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) DACA.—The term “DACA” means deferred action granted to an alien pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012.

(5) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the meaning given such term in section 3(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(1)).

(6) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term “early childhood education program” has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

(7) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; HIGH SCHOOL; SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The terms “elementary school”, “high school”, and “secondary school” have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(8) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(9) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education”—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

(B) does not include an institution of higher education outside of the United States.

(10) PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.—The term “permanent resident status on a conditional basis” means status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this Act.

(11) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line” has the meaning given such term in section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

(12) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(13) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “Uniformed Services” has the meaning given the term “uniformed services” in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM RESIDENTS WHO ENTERED THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.

(a) CONDITIONAL BASIS FOR STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an alien shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions under this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States, is in temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), or is the son or daughter of an alien admitted as a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (E)(i), (E)(ii), (H)(i)(b), or (L) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—

(A) the alien has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date that is 4 years before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) the alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States;

(C) subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the alien—

(i) is not inadmissible under paragraph (2), (3), (6)(E), (6)(G), (8), (10)(A), (10)(C), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a));

(ii) has not ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion; and

(iii) has not been convicted of—

(I) any offense under Federal or State law, other than a State offense for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, that is punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than 1 year; or

(II) 3 or more offenses under Federal or State law, other than State offenses for which an essential element is the alien's immigration status, for which the alien was convicted on different dates for each of the 3 offenses and imprisoned for an aggregate of 90 days or more;

(D) the alien—

(i) has been admitted to an institution of higher education;

(ii) has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general education development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States;

(iii) is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in—

(I) obtaining a regular high school diploma or its recognized equivalent under State law; or

(II) in passing a general educational development exam, a high school equivalence diploma examination, or other similar State-authorized exam; or

(iv)(I) has served, is serving, or has enlisted in the Armed Forces; or

(II) in the case of an alien who has been discharged from the Armed Forces, has received an honorable discharge; and

(E) the alien has sworn under penalty of perjury that the alien—

(i) has no unpaid applicable Federal tax liability, which is assessed and is not being disputed;

(ii) has entered into an agreement to resolve any such assessed and undisputed Federal tax liability (via an installment agreement, an offer in compromise, or otherwise) which has been approved by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue; or

(iii) has applied in good faith to enter into an agreement to resolve any such assessed and undisputed Federal tax liability, which has not been rejected by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

(2) WAIVER.—With respect to any benefit under this Act, the Secretary may waive the grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (2), (6)(E), (6)(G), or (10)(D) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes or family unity or if the waiver is otherwise in the public interest.

(3) TREATMENT OF EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS.—An expunged conviction shall not automatically be treated as an offense under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall evaluate expunged convictions on a case-by-case basis according to the nature and severity of the offense to determine whether, under the particular circumstances, the Secretary determines that the alien should be eligible for cancellation of removal, adjustment to permanent resident status on a conditional basis, or other adjustment of status.

(4) DACA RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall cancel the removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis, an alien who was granted DACA unless the alien has engaged in conduct since the alien was granted DACA that would make the alien ineligible for DACA.

(5) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require an alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i)(I) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii)(I) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv)(I) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(6) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not grant

an alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for aliens who are unable to provide such biometric or biographic data because of a physical impairment.

(7) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien seeking permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for such status.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement background checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary grants such alien permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section.

(8) MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall undergo a medical examination.

(B) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall prescribe policies and procedures for the nature and timing of the examination required under subparagraph (A).

(9) MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE.—An alien applying for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall establish that the alien has registered under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), if the alien is subject to registration under such Act.

(c) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.—

(1) TERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD.—Any period of continuous physical presence in the United States of an alien who applies for permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this section shall not terminate when the alien is served a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)).

(2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN BREAKS IN PRESENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), an alien shall be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States under subsection (b)(1)(A) if the alien has departed from the United States for any period exceeding 90 days or for any periods, in the aggregate, exceeding 180 days.

(B) EXTENSIONS FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may extend the time periods described in subparagraph (A) for an alien who demonstrates that the failure to timely return to the United States was due to extenuating circumstances beyond the alien's control, including the serious illness of the alien, or death or serious illness of a parent, grandparent, sibling, or child of the alien.

(C) TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY.—Any period of travel outside of the United States by an alien that was authorized by the Secretary may not be counted toward any period of departure from the United States under subparagraph (A).

(d) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Attorney General may not remove an alien who

appears prima facie eligible for relief under this section.

(2) ALIENS SUBJECT TO REMOVAL.—The Secretary shall provide a reasonable opportunity to apply for relief under this section to any alien who requests such an opportunity or who appears prima facie eligible for relief under this section if the alien is in removal proceedings, is the subject of a final removal order, or is the subject of a voluntary departure order.

(3) CERTAIN ALIENS ENROLLED IN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.—

(A) STAY OF REMOVAL.—The Attorney General shall stay the removal proceedings of an alien who—

(i) meets all the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of such subsection;

(ii) is at least 5 years of age; and

(iii) is enrolled in an elementary school, a secondary school, or an early childhood education program.

(B) COMMENCEMENT OF REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—The Secretary may not commence removal proceedings for an alien described in subparagraph (A).

(C) EMPLOYMENT.—An alien whose removal is stayed pursuant to subparagraph (A) or who may not be placed in removal proceedings pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall, upon application to the Secretary, be granted an employment authorization document.

(D) LIFT OF STAY.—The Secretary or Attorney General may not lift the stay granted to an alien under subparagraph (A) unless the alien ceases to meet the requirements under such subparagraph.

(e) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section or in any other law may be construed to apply a numerical limitation on the number of aliens who may be granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis under this Act.

SEC. 4. TERMS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS.

(a) PERIOD OF STATUS.—Permanent resident status on a conditional basis is—

(1) valid for a period of 8 years, unless such period is extended by the Secretary; and

(2) subject to termination under subsection (c).

(b) NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS.—At the time an alien obtains permanent resident status on a conditional basis, the Secretary shall provide notice to the alien regarding the provisions of this Act and the requirements to have the conditional basis of such status removed.

(c) TERMINATION OF STATUS.—The Secretary may terminate the permanent resident status on a conditional basis of an alien only if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the alien ceases to meet the requirements under paragraph (1)(C) of section 3(b), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of that section; and

(2) prior to the termination, provides the alien—

(A) notice of the proposed termination; and

(B) the opportunity to a hearing to provide evidence that the alien meets such requirements or otherwise contest the termination.

(d) RETURN TO PREVIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied shall return to the immigration status that the alien had immediately before receiving permanent resident status on a conditional basis or applying for such status, as appropriate.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.—An alien whose permanent resident status on a conditional basis expires under subsection (a)(1) or is terminated under subsection (c) or whose application for such status is denied and who had temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) immediately before receiving or applying for such permanent resident status on a conditional basis, as appropriate, may not return to such temporary protected status if—

(A) the relevant designation under section 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) has been terminated; or

(B) the Secretary determines that the reason for terminating the permanent resident status on a conditional basis renders the alien ineligible for such temporary protected status.

SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONAL BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this Act and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) is described in paragraph (1)(C) of section 3(b), subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of that section;

(B) has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States; and

(C)(i) has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States;

(ii) has served in the Armed Forces for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge; or

(iii) has been employed for periods totaling at least 3 years and at least 75 percent of the time that the alien has had a valid employment authorization, except that any period during which the alien is not employed while having a valid employment authorization and is enrolled in an institution of higher education, a secondary school, or an education program described in section 3(b)(1)(D)(iii), shall not count toward the time requirements under this clause.

(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status and grant the alien status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

(A) satisfies the requirements under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1);

(B) demonstrates compelling circumstances for the inability to satisfy the requirements under subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

(C) demonstrates that—

(i) the alien has a disability;

(ii) the alien is a full-time caregiver of a minor child; or

(iii) the removal of the alien from the United States would result in extreme hardship to the alien or the alien's spouse, parent, or child who is a national of the United States or is lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(3) CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status granted under this Act may not be removed unless the alien demonstrates that the alien satisfies the requirements under section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)).

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an alien who is unable to meet

the requirements under such section 312(a) due to disability.

(4) APPLICATION FEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require aliens applying for lawful permanent resident status under this section to pay a reasonable fee that is commensurate with the cost of processing the application.

(B) EXEMPTION.—An applicant may be exempted from paying the fee required under subparagraph (A) if the alien—

(i)(I) is younger than 18 years of age;

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; and

(III) is in foster care or otherwise lacking any parental or other familial support;

(ii) is younger than 18 years of age and is homeless;

(iii)(I) cannot care for himself or herself because of a serious, chronic disability; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line; or

(iv)(I) during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, the alien accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien; and

(II) received total income, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which the alien files an application under this section, that is less than 150 percent of the poverty line.

(5) SUBMISSION OF BIOMETRIC AND BIOGRAPHIC DATA.—The Secretary may not remove the conditional basis of an alien's permanent resident status unless the alien submits biometric and biographic data, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide an alternative procedure for applicants who are unable to provide such biometric data because of a physical impairment.

(6) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The Secretary shall utilize biometric, biographic, and other data that the Secretary determines appropriate—

(i) to conduct security and law enforcement background checks of an alien applying for removal of the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status; and

(ii) to determine whether there is any criminal, national security, or other factor that would render the alien ineligible for removal of such conditional basis.

(B) COMPLETION OF BACKGROUND CHECKS.—The security and law enforcement background checks of an alien required under subparagraph (A) shall be completed, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, before the date on which the Secretary removes the conditional basis of the alien's permanent resident status.

(b) TREATMENT FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), an alien granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis shall be considered to have been admitted to the United States, and be present in the United States, as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—An alien may not apply for naturalization while the alien is in permanent resident status on a conditional basis.

SEC. 6. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—An alien's application for permanent resi-

dent status on a conditional basis may include, as proof of identity—

(1) a passport or national identity document from the alien's country of origin that includes the alien's name and the alien's photograph or fingerprint;

(2) the alien's birth certificate and an identity card that includes the alien's name and photograph;

(3) a school identification card that includes the alien's name and photograph, and school records showing the alien's name and that the alien is or was enrolled at the school;

(4) a Uniformed Services identification card issued by the Department of Defense;

(5) any immigration or other document issued by the United States Government bearing the alien's name and photograph; or

(6) a State-issued identification card bearing the alien's name and photograph.

(b) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.—To establish that an alien has been continuously physically present in the United States, as required under section 3(b)(1)(A), or to establish that an alien has not abandoned residence in the United States, as required under section 5(a)(1)(B), the alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) records of service from the Uniformed Services;

(4) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(5) passport entries;

(6) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(7) automobile license receipts or registration;

(8) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(9) tax receipts;

(10) insurance policies;

(11) remittance records;

(12) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(13) copies of money order receipts for money sent in or out of the United States;

(14) dated bank transactions; or

(15) 2 or more sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien who have direct knowledge of the alien's continuous physical presence in the United States, that contain—

(A) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(B) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(c) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING INITIAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.—To establish under section 3(b)(1)(B) that an alien was younger than 18 years of age on the date on which the alien initially entered the United States, an alien may submit documents to the Secretary, including—

(1) an admission stamp on the alien's passport;

(2) records from any educational institution the alien has attended in the United States;

(3) any document from the Department of Justice or the Department of Homeland Security stating the alien's date of entry into the United States;

(4) hospital or medical records showing medical treatment or hospitalization, the name of the medical facility or physician, and the date of the treatment or hospitalization;

(5) rent receipts or utility bills bearing the alien's name or the name of an immediate family member of the alien, and the alien's address;

(6) employment records that include the employer's name and contact information;

(7) official records from a religious entity confirming the alien's participation in a religious ceremony;

(8) a birth certificate for a child who was born in the United States;

(9) automobile license receipts or registration;

(10) deeds, mortgages, or rental agreement contracts;

(11) tax receipts;

(12) travel records;

(13) copies of money order receipts sent in or out of the country;

(14) dated bank transactions;

(15) remittance records; or

(16) insurance policies.

(d) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has been admitted to an institution of higher education, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a document from the institution of higher education certifying that the alien—

(1) has been admitted to the institution; or

(2) is currently enrolled in the institution as a student.

(e) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF A DEGREE FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—To establish that an alien has acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary a diploma or other document from the institution stating that the alien has received such a degree.

(f) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING RECEIPT OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE, OR A RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT.—To establish that an alien has earned a high school diploma or a commensurate alternative award from a public or private high school, or has obtained a general educational development certificate recognized under State law or a high school equivalency diploma in the United States, the alien shall submit to the Secretary—

(1) a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or other alternate award;

(2) a high school equivalency diploma or certificate recognized under State law; or

(3) evidence that the alien passed a State-authorized exam, including the general educational development exam, in the United States.

(g) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT IN AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—To establish that an alien is enrolled in any school or education program described in section 3(b)(1)(D)(iii), 3(d)(3)(A)(iii), or 5(a)(1)(C), the alien shall submit school records from the United States school that the alien is currently attending that include—

(1) the name of the school; and

(2) the alien's name, periods of attendance, and current grade or educational level.

(h) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EXEMPTION FROM APPLICATION FEES.—To establish that an alien is exempt from an application fee under section 3(b)(5)(B) or 5(a)(4)(B), the alien shall submit to the Secretary the following relevant documents:

(1) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH AGE.—To establish that an alien meets an age requirement, the alien shall provide proof of identity, as described in subsection (a), that establishes that the alien is younger than 18 years of age.

(2) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH INCOME.—To establish the alien's income, the alien shall provide—

(A) employment records that have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency;

(B) bank records; or

(C) at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work and income that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(3) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH FOSTER CARE, LACK OF FAMILIAL SUPPORT, HOMELESSNESS, OR SERIOUS, CHRONIC DISABILITY.—To establish that the alien was in foster care, lacks parental or familial support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, the alien shall provide at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that contain—

(A) a statement that the alien is in foster care, otherwise lacks any parental or other familial support, is homeless, or has a serious, chronic disability, as appropriate;

(B) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(C) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(4) DOCUMENTS TO ESTABLISH UNPAID MEDICAL EXPENSE.—To establish that the alien has debt as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses, the alien shall provide receipts or other documentation from a medical provider that—

(A) bear the provider's name and address;

(B) bear the name of the individual receiving treatment; and

(C) document that the alien has accumulated \$10,000 or more in debt in the past 12 months as a result of unreimbursed medical expenses incurred by the alien or an immediate family member of the alien.

(i) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—To establish that an alien satisfies one of the criteria for the hardship exemption set forth in section 5(a)(2)(C), the alien shall submit to the Secretary at least 2 sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the circumstances that warrant the exemption, that contain—

(1) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(2) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien.

(j) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.—To establish that an alien has served in the Armed Forces for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge, the alien shall submit to the Secretary official service records showing the character of the alien's service.

(k) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING EMPLOYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien may satisfy the employment requirement under section 5(a)(1)(C)(iii) by submitting records that—

(A) establish compliance with such employment requirement; and

(B) have been maintained by the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, or any other Federal, State, or local government agency.

(2) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—An alien who is unable to submit the records described in paragraph (1) may satisfy the employment requirement by submitting at least 2 types of reliable documents that provide evidence of employment, including—

(A) bank records;

(B) business records;

(C) employer records;

(D) records of a labor union, day labor center, or organization that assists workers in employment;

(E) sworn affidavits from individuals who are not related to the alien and who have direct knowledge of the alien's work, that contain—

(i) the name, address, and telephone number of the affiant; and

(ii) the nature and duration of the relationship between the affiant and the alien; and

(F) remittance records.

(I) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary determines, after publication in the Federal Register and an opportunity for public comment, that any document or class of documents does not reliably establish identity or that permanent resident status on a conditional basis is being obtained fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the use of such document or class of documents.

SEC. 7. RULEMAKING.

(a) INITIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish regulations implementing this Act in the Federal Register. Such regulations shall allow eligible individuals to immediately apply affirmatively for the relief available under section 3 without being placed in removal proceedings.

(b) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the regulations published pursuant to subsection (a) shall be effective, on an interim basis, immediately upon publication in the Federal Register, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment.

(c) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which interim regulations are published under this section, the Secretary shall publish final regulations implementing this Act.

(d) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—The requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act"), shall not apply to any action to implement this Act.

SEC. 8. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not disclose or use information provided in applications filed under this Act or in requests for DACA for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

(b) REFERRALS PROHIBITED.—The Secretary may not refer any individual who has been granted permanent resident status on a conditional basis or who was granted DACA to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or any designee of either such entity.

(c) LIMITED EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), information provided in an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis or a request for DACA may be shared with Federal security and law enforcement agencies—

(1) for assistance in the consideration of an application for permanent resident status on a conditional basis;

(2) to identify or prevent fraudulent claims;

(3) for national security purposes; or

(4) for the investigation or prosecution of any felony not related to immigration status.

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3350. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the

way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3350

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "ACO Assignment Improvement Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE MEDICARE SHARED SAVINGS PROGRAM.

Section 1899(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395jj(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) in the case of performance years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, primary care services provided under this title by an ACO professional described in subsection (h)(1)(B).”.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3352. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit rollover contributions from Roth IRAs to designated Roth accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3352

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Retirement Rollover Flexibility Act".

SEC. 2. ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ROTH IRAS TO DESIGNATED ROTH ACCOUNTS.

(a) TREATMENT AS ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF ROTH IRA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(d)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “; or” at the end of clause (i) and inserting a comma, by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “; or” and by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) the entire amount received (including money and any other property) is paid in a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer to a designated Roth account (within the meaning of section 402A)—

“(I) from an eligible Roth IRA, or

“(II) in an automatic portability transaction (as defined in section 4975(f)(12)(A)(i)).”.

(2) ELIGIBLE ROTH IRA.—Section 408(d)(3) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J) ELIGIBLE ROTH IRA.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the term ‘eligible Roth IRA’ means a Roth IRA which—

“(i) is the only Roth IRA (other than a Roth IRA established under section 401(a)(31)(B)(i)) maintained for the benefit of the individual during the taxable year of the taxpayer in which the distribution or payment described in subparagraph (A)(iii) is made, and

“(ii) has a balance at the time of the payment or distribution which is not in excess of the amount described in section 401(a)(31)(B)(ii).”.

(b) TREATMENT AS ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF DESIGNATED ROTH ACCOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402A(c)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “or under section 408(d)(3)(A)(iii)” after “subparagraph (A)”.

(2) TREATMENT OF EARNINGS IN CASE OF TAXABLE DISTRIBUTIONS.—Section 402A(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) TREATMENT OF ROTH IRA ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 72, the total amount of any rollover contribution to a designated Roth account under section 408(d)(3)(A)(iii) shall be treated as investment in the contract.”.

(c) COORDINATION WITH NONEXCLUSION PERIOD.—Section 402A(d)(2)(B) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “earlier” in the matter preceding subclause (i) and inserting “earliest”,

(2) by striking “or” at the end of clause (i),

(3) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii), and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) if a rollover contribution was made to such designated Roth account from a Roth IRA under section 408(d)(3)(A)(iii)(II) and the automatic portability provider (as defined in section 4975(f)(12)(A)(ii)) provides the first taxable year to which a contribution was made to the source plan, the first taxable year in which the individual made contributions to the source plan.

For purposes of clause (iii), the term ‘source plan’ means the eligible retirement plan (as defined in section 401(a)(31)(B)(i)) from which amounts were transferred to the Roth IRA as described in section 4975(f)(12)(A)(i)(I).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or distributed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3353. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes; to the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act. I thank my colleagues Senator KING and Senator SHAHEEN for joining me in introducing this important legislation for farmers across America and particularly in Maine and New Hampshire.

The Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act would provide vital assistance to farmers affected by PFAS contamination. PFAS are man-made chemicals—sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals”—that can bioaccumulate in humans over time. They may traditionally be found in certain nonstick pans, some furniture, and firefighting foam and have been linked

to cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage, decreased fertility, and hormone disruption. PFAS contamination is a growing problem, and additional resources are needed to support affected communities.

In Maine, PFAS contamination affecting many different sectors, including agriculture, has been discovered over the past several years. The presence of PFAS in wastewater sludge once spread as fertilizer has prevented some Maine farms from selling their products, thus leading to significant financial hardship for these family farmers. One such farmer is Fred Stone, a dairy farmer in Arundel, ME. In 2016, Fred discovered that the milk produced on his farm contained some of the highest levels ever reported for a PFAS contaminant at that time. More recently, a dairy farm in Fairfield, ME, found PFAS levels in its milk that were 153 times higher than the State’s standard.

Dairy is not the only agricultural sector affected by these harmful chemicals. Adam Nordell and his wife Johanna Davis, from Unity, ME, learned that PFAS contaminated the soil and water in their organic vegetable farm, the result of sludge spread on their land in the 1990s. Tests showed that Adam and Johanna had levels of PFAS in their blood that were even higher than chemical plant workers who had manufactured PFAS for decades.

Currently, USDA Provides limited support through the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program, DIPP, to dairy farmers who have been directed to remove their milk from the commercial market. This program, however, falls far short in meeting the growing needs of all affected farmers in the State of Maine. Moreover, this program helps only dairy farmers, excluding the farmers of other agricultural products who have had their livelihoods disrupted by PFAS contamination. USDA should do more to assist all farmers harmed by these chemicals. That is what our legislation aims to do.

Specifically, the funds authorized by the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act could be used for a variety of purposes at the State level, including financial assistance to affected farmers; capacity building for PFAS testing for soil or water sources; blood monitoring for individuals to make informed decisions about their health; equipment to ensure a farm remains profitable during or after known PFAS contamination; alternative production systems or remediation strategies; educational programs for farmers experiencing PFAS contamination; and research on soil and water remediation systems and the viability of those systems for farms.

In addition to making new resources available, our bill would create a task force at USDA charged with identifying other USDA programs to which PFAS contamination remediation should be added as an eligible activity.

This would help bring more resources to farmers through existing programs. Additionally, the task force would provide technical assistance to States to help them coordinate their responses effectively.

USDA needs to step up and provide support to farmers, who through no fault of their own are at risk of losing their livelihoods because of PFAS contamination. The Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act would direct the Department to help where it is needed most. I know Secretary of Agriculture Rollins cares about this problem due to our discussions on PFAS.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. As the members of the Senate Agriculture Committee begin work on the 2026 farm bill, I hope that we can work together to pass the Relief for Farmers Hit with PFAS Act into law.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3365. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, literacy opens the door for lifelong opportunity and economic success. Yet, the long-term trend in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP, shows continued declines in reading scores with record-low percentages of students reporting regularly reading for fun outside of school. We need urgent action to ensure that all children have the means and the right to read. That is why I am pleased to join Representative ADELITA GRIJALVA and Senators SCHATZ, HIRONO, DURBIN, KING, WHITEHOUSE, and WYDEN in introducing the Right to Read Act.

The Right to Read Act leverages the tools that will make our students strong, lifelong readers. It requires States and school districts to have policies protecting the right to read, which includes access to evidence-based reading instruction; access to effective school libraries; access to developmentally and linguistically appropriate materials—including at home; family literacy support; and the freedom to choose reading materials.

Research consistently shows that investing in school libraries and school librarians improves literacy outcomes, with the connection between high-quality school library programs and student achievement being particularly pronounced for the most vulnerable learners. But not every student has access to library services. In 2020 to 2021, the first full school year after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 29.5 percent of schools reported not having a full- or part-time librarian, an increase from 25.4 percent in 2015 to 2016. Schools with high percentages of economically disadvantaged and minority students were even less likely to have access to certified librarians.

Moreover, school libraries are most effective when they offer resources that resonate, engage, and empower students and that align with their first amendment rights. Too many students are subject to ill-conceived book bans. During the 2024 to 2025 school year, PEN America recorded 6,870 instances of book bans across 23 States. Many of the banned titles address issues of racial, ethnic, or gender identity.

The Right to Read Act addresses the disparities in access to school library resources, ensuring that low-income, minority children, English learners, and students with disabilities are not disproportionately enrolled in schools that lack effective school libraries. It supports the development of effective school libraries, including the recruitment, retention, and professional development of State-certified school librarians. It will also increase the Federal investment in literacy by reauthorizing comprehensive literacy state development grants at \$500 million and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program at \$100 million, targeting critical literacy resources in high-need communities. Importantly, the bill protects access to quality reading materials and provides the resources needed to create a foundation for learning and student success.

In developing this legislation, Representative GRIJALVA and I worked closely with the library community, including the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians. We are also pleased to have the support of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, PEN America, and Reach Out and Read. These are the experts in helping kids become lifelong readers and learners. I appreciate their insight and assistance on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation to ensure that all students have a right to read.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3372. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude qualified wildfire relief payments from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Extension Act. This legislation would extend and make permanent the tax relief that Congress has provided for individuals and families that have received compensation for losses and damages suffered during a wildfire.

The Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Extension Act would make permanent the exclusion of certain qualified wildfire relief payments from gross income, including compensation for losses, expenses, or damages, such as compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages, per-

sonal injury, death, or emotional distress.

It would also allow taxpayers to claim the exemption in the year they receive payments rather than have to file, for a refund. This will provide more immediate and much needed certainty to wildfire survivors. It would also ensure that future recipients of wildfire-related settlements are able to use the entire sum of compensation towards the intended purpose of rebuilding.

Unfortunately, utility-caused fires are becoming increasingly common, meaning more States now have qualifying settlements or active litigation related to such disasters.

Congress acknowledged the fact that wildfire survivors should not be subject to the financial uncertainty of not knowing how much of their claims will be made available for recovery when it passed the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act, P.L. 118-148, which included my bill to create this exclusion. This is a policy that passed the Senate with unanimous consent.

Unfortunately, this exclusion will expire at the end of the 2025 calendar year, which means any settlement payments beginning in 2026 will again be subject to Federal income tax obligations. The Protect Innocent Victims of Taxation After Fire Extension Act will make this exclusion permanent so that we might provide at least some sense of certainty to all who have suffered devastating losses.

I would like to thank Senators LUMMIS, WYDEN, and SHEEHY for introducing this bill with me in the Senate, and I would like to thank Representatives LAMALFA and THOMPSON for leading this bipartisan legislation in the House. I hope my colleagues will join us again in supporting this bill to ensure wildfire victims receive full and proper compensation to help rebuild their lives and communities.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3377. A bill to delay the implementation of a rule relating to the importation of sheep and goats and products derived from sheep and goats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3377

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS AND PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM SHEEP AND GOATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture, and any other Federal official, may

not finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled “Importation of Sheep, Goats, and Certain Other Ruminants” (81 Fed. Reg. 46619) and dated July 18, 2016.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study on the potential costs and benefits of the rule referred to in subsection (a).

(B) CONTENTS.—The study required by subparagraph (A) shall assess—

(i) the estimated amount of sheep and goat meat imported into the United States as a result of the implementation of the rule referred to in subsection (a);

(ii) the estimated increase in the number of live sheep and goats imported into the United States as a result of the rule;

(iii) the estimated demand for sheep and goat meat in the United States during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, disaggregated by region and State;

(iv) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic data and market conditions for imports of sheep and goat meat and live sheep and goats;

(v) the potential effects of the rule on—

(I) the supply and prices of live sheep and goats in the United States;

(II) producers of and markets for live sheep and goats in the United States, disaggregated by region and State;

(III) export opportunities for United States producers of sheep and goat meat;

(IV) the competitiveness of the sheep and goat industries in the United States;

(V) consumer confidence in sheep and goat meat;

(VI) the health of sheep and goat herds in the United States; and

(VII) disease outbreaks across species of animals;

(vi) the estimated amount of direct payments made by foreign countries to producers of live sheep and goats in such countries as a result of the implementation of the rule referred to in subsection (a); and

(vii) any negative impacts that could result from the implementation of the rule referred to in subsection (a) not covered by clauses (i) through (vi).

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report that includes—

(i) an analysis of the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1); and

(ii) recommendations for changes to the rule referred to in subsection (a) to eliminate or mitigate any negative effects of the implementation of the rule.

(B) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this subparagraph are—

(i) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 529—CON-DEMNING ANTI-PALESTINIAN HATRED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK IN BURLINGTON, VERMONT, ON NOVEMBER 25, 2023

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 529

Whereas, on November 25, 2023, three college students were shot while walking down a street in Burlington, Vermont, where they were visiting family for Thanksgiving;

Whereas all three victims were grievously injured, including one who was paralyzed;

Whereas Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad were attacked simply for wearing a scarf using a traditional Palestinian pattern and speaking in Arabic;

Whereas Palestinian communities across the United States and the Middle East have suffered growing threats and acts of violence and prejudice linked to anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hatred during the war in Gaza; and

Whereas no individual in the United States should be subjected to violence or intimidation because of their religion, ethnicity, heritage, or expressions of identity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns those killed and injured in the United States by anti-Palestinian violence since the beginning of the war in Gaza, including the murder of Wadea al-Fayoume in Plainfield Township, Illinois, and the violent attack on Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad in Burlington, Vermont;

(2) decries the bias, hatred, and threats to life and safety experienced by many Palestinian Americans during the two-year conflict in Gaza;

(3) condemns hateful language that—

(A) advocates for the removal of Palestinians from Israel or the Palestinian territories;

(B) suggests that Palestinians should move to other countries; and

(C) denies the existence, cultural traditions, or right to a state of the Palestinian people; and

(4) commends community leaders in the United States, Israel, and the West Bank and Gaza who have spoken out against hateful language and urged peace and mutual respect between different communities, religions, and traditions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 530—CON-DEMNING THE PARDON OF EX-HONDURAN PRESIDENT JUAN ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 530

Whereas, according to court documents, from at least 2004 up to and including 2022, Juan Orlando Hernández, the former president of the Honduran National Congress and former two-term President of Honduras, was

at the center of one of the largest and most violent drug-trafficking conspiracies in the world;

Whereas, during his political career, President Hernández abused his positions and authority in Honduras to facilitate the importation of over 400 tons of cocaine into the United States, enough for approximately 4,500,000,000 individual doses;

Whereas President Hernández's co-conspirators were armed with machine guns and other weapons, including AK-47s, AR-15s, and grenade launchers, which they used to protect their cocaine shipments as they transited across Honduras on route to the United States, protect the money they made from the sale of the cocaine, and guard their drug-trafficking territory from rivals;

Whereas President Hernández and his co-conspirators abused Honduran institutions, including the Honduran National Police and the Honduran military, to protect and grow their conspiracy, using heavily armed Honduran National Police officers to protect their cocaine shipments as they transited across Honduras;

Whereas President Hernández received millions of dollars of drug money from some of the largest and most violent drug-trafficking organizations in Honduras, Mexico, and elsewhere, and used those bribes to fuel his rise in Honduran politics, including a \$1,000,000 bribe from El Chapo, one of the world's most notorious drug kingpins;

Whereas, as President Hernández rose to power in Honduras, he provided increased support and protection for his co-conspirators, allowing them to move tons of cocaine, commit acts of violence and murder, and turn Honduras into one of the most dangerous countries in the world;

Whereas, during his time in office, President Hernández protected and enriched the drug traffickers in his inner circle and those who provided him with cocaine-fueled bribes that allowed him to obtain and stay in power;

Whereas President Hernández selectively supported and took credit for extraditions to the United States of certain drug traffickers who threatened his grip on power, while at the same time promising drug traffickers who bribed him and followed his instructions that they would remain safe in Honduras;

Whereas the threat of being extradited to the United States made drug traffickers eager to bribe anyone who could protect them, and according to Federal prosecutors, they came to know they could rely on President Hernández;

Whereas President Hernández directed the Honduran National Police and military to protect smugglers who paid him off and he promised to shield them from extradition to the United States, reportedly telling one cocaine trafficker that "by the time the gringos find out, we will have eliminated extradition";

Whereas President Hernández reportedly boasted, "We are going to stuff the drugs up the gringos' noses, and they're never even going to know it.";

Whereas several of President Hernández's co-conspirators were convicted and sentenced to prison in the United States, including President Hernández's brother, Juan Antonio Hernández Alvarado, also known as "Tony Hernández", who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, Geovanny Fuentes Ramirez, a violent cocaine trafficker who met with President Hernández multiple times to discuss their drug trafficking partnership and who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, and Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, also known as "El Tigre", the former chief of the Honduran National Police, who pleaded guilty to his participation in the cocaine importation con-

spiracy and was sentenced to 19 years in prison;

Whereas President Hernández was convicted of drug trafficking and weapons conspiracy after a jury trial that lasted nearly three weeks, and sentenced to 45 years imprisonment and fined \$8,000,000;

Whereas President Hernández claimed that he was the victim of "political persecution", but no credible evidence to support that claim has been presented;

Whereas President Hernández's conviction and sentence were upheld on appeal; and

Whereas President Donald J. Trump's pardon of Juan Orlando Hernández is an affront to the Federal law enforcement and judicial officials who investigated and prosecuted him and to the jurors who performed their civil duty in convicting him, weakens the rule of law, and severely harms the credibility of the United States in combating drug trafficking in this hemisphere and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Federal investigators, prosecutors, and other United States law enforcement and judicial personnel for their extraordinary efforts in investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting President Juan Orlando Hernández;

(2) commends the members of the New York jury for faithfully and courageously weighing the evidence and finding President Hernández guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; and

(3) condemns the pardon of convicted cocaine kingpin Juan Orlando Hernández.

SENATE RESOLUTION 531—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT ON NOVEMBER 29, 2025, AND RECOGNIZING ITS TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 531

Whereas, on November 29, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142; 89 Stat. 773), which was later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas, prior to the enactment of IDEA, more than 1,000,000 children with disabilities were excluded from public schools, and many children with disabilities were institutionalized or received inadequate or segregated education;

Whereas IDEA established the right of every child with a disability to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, fundamentally transforming the educational landscape for millions of students;

Whereas IDEA affirms and protects the rights of children with disabilities and their families, ensuring access to educational opportunities and procedural safeguards;

Whereas IDEA supports the development and implementation of statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, and interagency systems of early intervention services for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children with disabilities and their families;

Whereas IDEA ensures parents are meaningful partners with educators in determining the individualized education program or early intervention services a child needs;

Whereas IDEA provides the necessary tools to improve educational access and opportunity through systemic supports and improvement activities, parent training, coordinated research and personnel preparation, technical assistance, dissemination of best practices, and access to accessible assistive technology and other supports; and

Whereas Congress appropriates funding annually for Part B, C, and D programs of IDEA, which support the full range of evidence-based services and supports for students with disabilities, families, educators, States, and localities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and its enduring legacy and impact;

(2) honors the millions of infants, toddlers, children, and youth who have benefited from IDEA;

(3) commends the educators, families, advocates, and policymakers who have worked to uphold, advance, and ensure students benefit from IDEA; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to carrying out IDEA to ensure that every child with a disability has access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

SENATE RESOLUTION 532—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 532

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 166: Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(2) Calendar Number 267: James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

(3) Calendar Number 354: Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

(4) Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(5) Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(6) Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(7) Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

(8) Calendar Number 452: Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(9) Calendar Number 453: Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

(11) Calendar Number 455: Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

(12) Calendar Number 456: David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(13) Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

(14) Calendar Number 462: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(15) Calendar Number 463: Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(16) Calendar Number 465: Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 4 years.

(17) Calendar Number 466: Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(18) Calendar Number 467: James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2027.

(19) Calendar Number 468: Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

(20) Calendar Number 469: Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(21) Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(22) Calendar Number 477: Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years.

(23) Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

(24) Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years.

(25) Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(26) Calendar Number 481: Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(27) Calendar Number 482: Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years.

(28) Calendar Number 483: Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(29) Calendar Number 484: Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(30) Calendar Number 486: Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

(31) Calendar Number 488: Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

(32) Calendar Number 489: John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(33) Calendar Number 509: William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

(34) Calendar Number 510: Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(35) Calendar Number 511: Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

(36) Calendar Number 512: Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

(37) Calendar Number 513: Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028.

(38) Calendar Number 514: Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026.

(39) Calendar Number 516: Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(40) Calendar Number 517: Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

(41) Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

(42) Calendar Number 520: Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

(43) Calendar Number 521: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

(44) Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

(45) Calendar Number 523: Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030.

(46) Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

(47) Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(48) Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(49) Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(50) Calendar Number 528: Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(51) Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(52) Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(53) Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(54) Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(55) Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

(56) Calendar Number 534: Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

(57) Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(58) Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

(59) Calendar Number 537: John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(60) Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

(61) Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(62) Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(63) Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(64) Calendar Number 550: Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(65) Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

(66) Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(67) Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

(68) Calendar Number 554: Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030.

(69) Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030. (Reappointment)

(70) Calendar Number 556: Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint for a term of 5 years.

(71) Calendar Number 557: Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(72) Calendar Number 558: Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

(73) Calendar Number 559: Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of 5 years.

(74) Calendar Number 561: Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador.

(75) Calendar Number 562: Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031.

(76) Calendar Number 563: Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

(77) Calendar Number 564: Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa.

(78) Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

(79) Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of

America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

(80) Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

(81) Calendar Number 568: Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

(82) Calendar Number 569: John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.

(83) Calendar Number 570: Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(84) Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years.

(85) Calendar Number 576: Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years.

(86) Calendar Number 577: James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(87) Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(88) Calendar Number 579: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(89) Calendar Number 580: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029.

(90) Calendar Number 582: Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

(91) Calendar Number 583: Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, with the rank of Ambassador.

(92) Calendar Number 584: Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru.

(93) Calendar Number 585: Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

(94) Calendar Number 586: Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

(95) Calendar Number 587: Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Stability).

(96) Calendar Number 588: Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of 4 years.

(97) Calendar Number 589: Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2029.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO UNVEIL THE STATUE OF BARBARA ROSE JOHNS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 62, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 62) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to unveil the statue of Barbara Rose Johns.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 62) was agreed to.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT ON NOVEMBER 29, 2025, AND RECOGNIZING ITS TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 531, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 531) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on November 29, 2025, and recognizing its transformative impact on the education of children with disabilities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 531) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it

stand in recess until 3 p.m., Monday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. Finally, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Executive Calendar No. 571, Robert Chamberlin, ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CASSIDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, we just had a shutdown over something that the American people I am not quite sure understand, but what they do understand is that they cannot afford their health insurance. They cannot, if you will, afford the cost of being insured. Prices of health insurance and of healthcare are up for everybody. It is not sustainable, and they are looking to us—they are looking to Congress—for solutions.

As a physician, as a doctor, I have seen it firsthand. I have seen patients come to see me with insurance, but they could not afford their deductibles. I have seen people who could not afford their insurance and who therefore take the risk that they will not get sick. We should not have that in our country.

In July, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—the HELP Committee, which I chair—discussed affordability across the entire commercial insurance market, trying to find out why costs are going up so high when you are buying your insurance through your employer or, as the employer, buying the insurance for the employee. But it doesn't matter. If you are on the individual market or if you are on the small business market, you are paying more, and because of increasing healthcare costs, insurance premiums are climbing as well.

Now let's go to the ObamaCare exchanges because the shutdown we just had for over 40 days was related to the fact that subsidies are ending on the ObamaCare exchanges.

A little bit of history: During the COVID pandemic, health insurance premiums were going up so much that Democrats passed extended, temporary, enhanced premium tax credits—if you will, EPTCs—which helped give more money on top of the original ObamaCare subsidies to help people afford their premiums.

The way it works is they didn't give the money to the patient, to the individual, to our fellow American; they gave the money to highly consolidated insurance companies, which take 20 percent of that for profit and overhead.

Now, I am not knocking insurance companies. We all have insurance for our cars, for flood insurance, for property and casualty, et cetera. I am just pointing out that they do take 20 percent of what we give them for profit and overhead.

By giving the money to the insurance companies, we are not actually lowering the cost of the premium; we are just papering over it with subsidies. Somebody is paying for that. It is the taxpayer who is paying for that. The premium is going up. Yes, the person getting the insurance pays less, but we the taxpayers are paying for it. There is no free lunch when it comes to this.

The enhanced premium tax credits don't lower the cost of healthcare, but they are a bandaid on a broken bone.

By the way, we can prove this.

In 2014, taxpayers covered 68 percent of an ObamaCare exchange enrollee's premiums. By 2020, 60 percent had become 80 percent, meaning that is how much the taxpayer was subsidizing. From 2021 to 2025—the era of the enhanced premium tax credits—the taxpayers' share of subsidizing the premiums on the exchanges grew to 93 percent. What started off as 68 percent has become 93 percent this year. Yet, despite all this money—let me repeat—the actual premium never decreased; it is just that the taxpayers were paying more of it for our fellow Americans.

Now, somebody is paying. You and I are paying it. By the way, if you are not getting extra money, if you are paying for it on your own, you are still paying those higher and higher rates. If I were that person individually insured who was not getting the subsidy when everyone else was but my tax dollars were going to subsidize other people, I would feel totally taken advantage of. You are paying for others to get cheaper insurance, but you are paying more because nobody is addressing the higher costs of healthcare.

We should be fair to our fellow Americans who can't afford their premiums. We should be fair to our fellow Americans who are not getting subsidies. So what do we have to do? Well, let's go after the root cause of what is causing the healthcare costs to rise. Let's find out why that is, and let's attempt to decrease the cost of healthcare. It is hard, but I think there are practical solutions that are implementable that could actually do that.

But that is only one part of the conversation. The second part of the conversation is, what do we do about January 1, 2026, when the tax credits that the Democrats passed are set to expire at the end of this year? What do we do for those Americans who are in some cases facing \$33,000-a-year premiums who have a salary of \$90,000? What do we do for them?

Some people just want to continue the subsidies as they are—the status quo: Let's continue the subsidies for 3 more years. And, yes, the premiums will continue to rise. Yes, it will require taxpayers to subsidize more and more. By the way, the policies we are buying have \$6,000 deductibles. They want to continue that status quo.

Well, I can tell you that I am not interested in the status quo. As a physician, I can tell you that putting a bandaid over a broken bone doesn't work. And the Republicans are absolutely interested in finding a solution that can make healthcare and health insurance more affordable beginning on January 1, 2026, but going on beyond that.

So what can we do for January 1, 2026? This is where I think we are headed: If Congress does what it always does, Democrats are going to put up a bill, and it is going to fail. They are going to put up a bill, and they are going to know it is going to fail. The Republicans will put up a bill, and it will fail, and everyone will know that that bill will fail too.

Then premiums will rise on January 1, 2026. The American people who are looking to Congress for a solution will find two bills side by side, neither of which passes and both of which we know will fail, and their premiums will go up. That should not be an option.

I suggest that we find a solution—not a Republican solution, not a Democratic solution, but an American solution. Put differently, not an R, not a D, but an A solution. There are ideas out there on the right and the left that are big ideas, good ideas, or bad ideas, but they are going to take a long time to discuss, debate, figure out, and implement. We have to be focused on January 1, 2026, and that means we have to build on what we already have. Now, folks may not like what we already have, but we have to focus on getting something done in 3 weeks.

So we have two choices: Do nothing and accept the premise that no deal is possible, that the enhanced premium tax credits go away, that there are no reforms to a failing system, that a Democratic bill and a Republican bill both fail like so much fails in Congress, and that the American people are not served—that is one option—or we can roll up our sleeves and figure out something we can all live with.

I think that there is, if you will, such a sweet spot, one in which Congress appropriates funds equivalent—roughly equivalent—to what we would spend on the enhanced premium tax credits, but instead of 100 percent of this money going to insurance companies, which take 20 percent of it for their deductibles and copays, we give 100 percent almost to the patient, to our fellow American, in an account that she controls and can use as she wishes.

So I am proposing not to continue—I will put it up there for our guests in the audience.

Good to see you all.

If we just keep doing what we have been doing for the last 4 years, we send \$26 billion to the insurance companies, which take 20 percent of it for profit and for overhead—that is under the ObamaCare law that they can take that 20 percent—or we can send 100 percent to an account that the patient controls. She makes the decision on her doctor, her dentist, and on some things that insurance doesn't pay for: eye care, dental care, orthodonture. She makes the decision. She gets the healthcare she knows she needs as opposed to the healthcare the insurance company gives her permission to have. Put differently, giving her the money gives power to the patient. That is where we should be.

What Democrat wants to give 100 percent of the money to the insurance companies for them to take 20 percent for profit and overhead? What Republican does not want to give power to the patient by putting money in her account for her to use—I am chuckling, and I will tell you why in a second—as she sees fit?

Sometimes people say—and there are a lot of men up in the audience who are chuckling with me. Some people say: Well, why do you use the feminine when you speak about this? Because women make 85 percent of the decisions in healthcare, and we can trust her to make a decision which is good for her family's health and which is good for her purse, which is good for her pocketbook.

Let's have faith in her to make the wise decision for her family as opposed to having to go to the insurance company, which returns roughly 80 percent of it back but takes 20 percent for profit and overhead. Give power to the patient.

Now, you can do this because under ObamaCare, you can take a credit which goes to a more expensive healthcare policy or you can apply it to a less expensive policy. That gives you savings, and those savings you can split up between all of the eligible people on the exchanges into their health savings accounts. It would be to the patient's financial advantage to take a cheaper plan but to have the health savings account to help pay for her expenses.

By the way, the health savings account, it has been shown, empowers, encourages somebody to make wise decisions. If she knows that "I can get the x ray here for \$500 or down the street for \$2,500," she is going to go where she gets it for \$500. That begins

to lower costs because the people who are more expensive will lower their costs. She, the woman in charge of this, is going to drive lower costs across the healthcare economy.

Some folks say: Wait a second. Health savings accounts—aren't those just for rich people?

No. One, I don't think they are in general, but in this case, we are prefunding them. It doesn't matter what your income is. You get more money. The Federal Government, instead of sending it to the insurance company, puts it into the account for you. You get more money.

By the way, if you do it the way I would like to set it up, if you are less well-off, you get more money. If you are a little bit older, you get more money because—I hate to say it—when you get a little bit older, your healthcare costs go up. If you have a bunch of kids, you get a little bit more money, too, because taking a child to the emergency room can be expensive.

We can make this work for the American family as opposed to the American family working to get the insurance company to approve the care they know they need. My plan does not take away coverage. It doesn't touch the original ObamaCare tax credits. The patients need a solution that reduces their costs of being insured, not just the cost of the premium.

There are a lot of other issues to address. I am pro-life. There are some pro-life issues. But I have found that if we come together in a well-meaning way and work out a way that we can keep the American people from getting stuck with a high healthcare cost, treat their tax dollars with respect, and ideally lower the cost of the program, we can work out other issues.

President Trump endorses this approach. President Trump has said he would rather not give money to the insurance companies. He would rather give it to the people. Actually, he said: Don't give the money to the money-sucking insurance companies; give it to the patient—or something like that. President Trump has a way with words. So, however you say it, let's give the patient the power.

Because President Trump endorses it, though, I do think that Republicans will by and large support it, that there will be a vote in the House of Representatives, and that there is enough in here that Democrats want that Democrats can find some way to embrace it.

The American people want something to pass. Let's work to find something

that can pass. Let's give power to the patient, not profit to the insurance company. Let's make healthcare affordable again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ACTION VITIATED—H.R. 3174

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate action with respect to H.R. 3174 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:50 p.m., recessed until Monday, December 8, 2025, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. CLINTON MEAD

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE SERVING AS THE CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONS UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2 OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND SECTION 1037 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014:

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN H. VAUGHN

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 4, 2025:

THE JUDICIARY

SUSAN COURTWRIGHT RODRIGUEZ, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO DEFENSE FEL- LOW MAJOR EVAN HANSON

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to my Defense Fellow, Major Evan Hanson of the United States Air Force, for his outstanding work in my office and service to the people of Texas' 13th Congressional District during 2025. Since being assigned to my office, Major Hanson has made a profound impact, bringing professionalism, insight, and dedication that have delivered exceptional results for the constituents I represent.

Major Hanson entered my office with critical knowledge and experience from his distinguished Air Force career, which was indispensable in advancing my legislative priorities across the House Armed Services, Intelligence, and Foreign Affairs Committees. In 2013, Evan commissioned as a Logistics Readiness and Munitions Maintenance Officer after graduating from the University of Colorado, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Affairs with magna cum laude honors. As a commissioned officer, Evan has remained committed to his educational and professional growth, earning a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from Regis University and completing the Air Force's Continuous Process Improvement Green Belt Program.

During his career, Evan has served with distinction at the Squadron, Wing, and Major Command levels, both stateside and overseas at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. His previous assignments include experience as Operations Officer, Defense Logistics Aviation; Director of Logistics and Force Protection, Combined Joint Special Operations Aviation Component; Special Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command; Director of Innovation, 90th Missile Wing; Resources Flight Commander, 790th Maintenance Squadron; Materiel Management Flight Commander, 90th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and much more.

Major Hanson's background proved critical in his unique ability to support my efforts on behalf of the men and women at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. Having trained at Sheppard in 2018, where he completed the Air Force's Maintenance Officer Fundamental Course, he brought firsthand understanding of the world-class technical training and education that Sheppard provides our airmen. Notably, Evan's leadership was instrumental in securing inclusion of my Advancing Innovation and Maintenance through Headquarters for Instruction, Growth, and High-tech training Act, or the AIM HIGH Act, as an amendment to the House-passed Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act—po-

sitioning Sheppard to receive designation as the Air Force's Technical Training Center of Excellence.

Beyond his professional excellence, Major Hanson will be remembered most for his servant leadership, integrity, and team-first spirit. His patriotism, humility, and unwavering commitment to others have left a permanent mark on my staff and our mission that will be nearly impossible to replicate.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and the constituents I proudly serve, I want to thank Major Evan Hanson for his exemplary service to my office and our great Nation. I wish him nothing but continued success as he carries forward his leadership in the United States Air Force.

CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, CHI- CAGO LOCAL 0001 AND U.S. POST- AL WORKERS RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of the United States Postal Service and the over 500,000 dedicated career employees that work for one of America's most trusted and fundamental democratic institutions. Since our Nation's establishment, the U.S. Postal Service has delivered vital goods and services critical to the health and well-being of our people, thereby playing a crucial role in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of America.

For millions of Americans, both in rural communities and in urban neighborhoods, the U.S. Postal Service has been a lifeline. The contributions of postal workers, past and present, represent an essential pillar of public service, community connection, and democratic access, especially in times of national challenge, economic hardship, and social change. The U.S. Postal Service is a driving force to the churches, small businesses, and constituents in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois.

Since its founding in 1906, what was then known as the National Federation of Postal Clerks and what is now recognized as the American Postal Workers Union, Chicago Local 0001 has played a pivotal role in championing safe working conditions, fair wages, equal opportunity, and the respect owed to every individual who contributes to the strength and continuity of our Nation's postal system. As the Postal Service's 250th anniversary approaches, it is fitting and proper that we honor and recognize the dedication, sacrifice, and invaluable service of these workers.

While the U.S. Postal Service has a vast fleet of vehicles and a comprehensive network of facilities and equipment, the real engine behind its operations and prowess is the over half a million dedicated employees of the Postal Service.

On U.S. Postal Workers Recognition Day, I proudly stand in support of the United States

Postal Service, especially now given the rise of the digital economy and e-commerce. The U.S. Postal Service is more than just a business; it is an important public-oriented service that has been a cornerstone of our Nation's infrastructure since its inception.

I encourage all residents, organizations, and civic leaders to join me in celebrating the historic contributions and continued service of postal workers and the American Postal Workers Union, Chicago Local 0001.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REBECCA NABORS

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rebecca Nabors, the first Black woman elected to the Stockton City Council. Her decades of service as an educator, advocate, and leader, left an enduring impact on South Stockton. This recognition is given posthumously.

Mrs. Nabors served District 6 with distinction, including as Vice Chair of the Audit and Budget Committee. She championed equity in every arena—from pushing for fair resource allocation and park improvements to expanding public services and environmental protections in underserved neighborhoods.

Before her time on the council, Mrs. Nabors dedicated nearly 40 years to the Stockton Unified School District, where she fought for reading justice, academic equity, and culturally responsive teaching. In her professional capacity as an Educator with Stockton Unified, Mrs. Nabors served as Director of Extended Campus, a program for at-risk students. Through the Black Teachers Association, she helped provide scholarships for local students, many of them the first in their families to attend college.

Mrs. Nabors was also a force behind community-driven initiatives like the Sustainable Neighborhood Plan and Stockton Rising, helping deliver energy upgrades, food security programs, and economic opportunity to South Stockton families. A devout Christian, she served faithfully in her church, singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school.

A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Mrs. Nabors lived a life rooted in sisterhood, service, and social action. Her outstanding leadership was recognized with numerous honors, including the Mary McLeod Bethune Award, the first Woman of Color Award from the African American Chamber of Commerce of San Joaquin County, the NAACP Rosa Parks Award, and the 2008 Susan B. Anthony Award in Education.

Former Councilmember Rebecca Nabors will be remembered as a fearless advocate, mentor, and visionary. Her legacy lives on in the communities she served and the lives she

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

touched. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Rebecca Nabors.

HONORING CHANS CHIV WITH THE CA-37 PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR AWARD

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Chans Chiv with the CA-37 Public Service Honor Award for his exemplary service to the Los Angeles Passport Agency. His unwavering commitment to improving the accessibility and reliability of passport services has had a profound impact on the Agency and on residents across Southern California and Nevada, ensuring that communities of every neighborhood and background receive the support they deserve.

Mr. Chiv began his career with the Los Angeles Passport Agency in 2004 as a Passport Specialist. His talent, professionalism, and dedication quickly distinguished him, leading to his promotion in 2011 to Customer Service Manager.

Driven by a deep commitment to serving his community, Mr. Chiv has excelled in strengthening essential partnerships with Passport Acceptance Facilities, including post offices, public libraries, and municipalities. Through these collaborations, he has expanded access to passport services throughout the region, helping countless residents obtain the services they need with dignity and ease.

Mr. Chiv is widely respected for his ability to build strong relationships with stakeholders, often visiting sites personally to better understand community needs and enhance service delivery. He brings that same dedication to his family, making time each day to pick up his children from school—a testament to the care and commitment that define both his personal and professional life. Outside of work, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and two children, sharing a love of sports and exploring their favorite local restaurants together.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Chans Chiv for his exemplary service, his unwavering dedication to the public, and the lasting, positive impact he has made on countless individuals throughout our region.

RECOGNIZING CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 75TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago, a group of visionary educators, parents, and community members came together with a common dream: to create a district where every child would have the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. I rise today to congratulate the Cherry Creek School District on celebrating this important milestone.

Cherry Creek opened in 1950 with eight schools and grew to double their enrollment

by the 1970's. Today, the district serves 53,000 students over 67 K-12 schools across the Denver Metro Area. The district's students have excelled in state and national competitions in academics, athletics, and the arts.

Cherry Creek has prioritized meeting the needs of their students. In 2023, Traverse Academy became the first district-operated mental health facility and school of its kind across the Nation.

Today, the district's mission is to "inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care." This mission has guided Cherry Creek in their work to support every child across all backgrounds and academic pathways.

As one of the districts in Colorado's most diverse congressional district, Cherry Creek serves students from all over the world. Currently, more than 150 languages are spoken throughout the school district.

Cherry Creek has continued its leadership and dedication to meeting the needs of today by opening the dynamic Cherry Creek Innovation Campus in 2019. The school offers multiple non-traditional academic pathways for students to excel, including Aerospace Manufacturing, Hospitality, and Infrastructure Engineering. In 2024, it was recognized as a top 100 school for educational innovation by HundredED. Since their opening in 2019, 776 students at the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus have earned their industry certificates.

I am honored to represent the Cherry Creek School District and I know I speak for many in Colorado when I congratulate all members of the Cherry Creek School District community on their dedication to our students and contributions to our state. With work grounded in innovation, excellence, and a commitment to their students, I know they will continue to focus on educating and lifting up their students for the next 75 years and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH BIRTH- DAY OF DR. HATEM HOSSINO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. Hatem Hossino of Charleston, West Virginia. Dr. Hossino was born on December 7, 1945 in Salamiyeh, Syria, later emigrating to the United States. Dr. Hossino has lived the American dream. He opened his vascular and general surgery practice in Charleston, West Virginia in 1978, where he continues to practice serving the community. In February 2023, former Governor Jim Justice recognized Dr. Hossino as a Distinguished Mountaineer, noting that "his commitment to his community and career has been an outstanding example for us all." I am grateful for Dr. Hossino's service to the community and for sharing his son, Omar Hossino, an invaluable contributor to our office. I wish Dr. Hossino a happy birthday, and prayers for many more.

HONORING MY PREEMIE AND ME OF GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor My Premie and Me, an outstanding nonprofit organization in Greenville, Mississippi, for its unwavering commitment to supporting premature infants and their families throughout the Mississippi Delta.

Founded by Marketta "Nikki" Landrum after the premature birth of her daughter, My Premie and Me was created from a deeply personal journey. What began as a mother's desire to help other families facing the fear and uncertainty of prematurity has grown into a vital source of compassion, education, and community support.

My Premie and Me provides direct assistance to families with preemies and works tirelessly to raise awareness about prematurity. The organization has partnered with the City of Greenville to observe World Prematurity Day, including the Purple Lighting of Greenville City Hall, ensuring that families of NICU babies feel seen, supported, and embraced by their community. Through Prematurity Awareness Month activities and collaborations with local civic groups, My Premies and Me has strengthened public understanding of prematurity and highlighted the needs of families caring for medically fragile infants.

Beyond health advocacy, My Premie and Me plays a meaningful role in the civic life of Greenville. The organization helped host the city's First Annual Juneteenth Celebration, joining community partners to bring residents together in celebration of culture, history, and unity. Their work demonstrates a belief that strong families are built within strong, connected communities.

The organization's dedication has also been recognized beyond Greenville, including being listed among nonprofit beneficiaries of Entergy Corporation's charitable giving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask colleagues to join me in recognizing My Premie and Me and its founder, Marketta "Nikki" Landrum, for their profound service to preemie families and for the hope and strength they bring to the Mississippi Delta.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF AMERICAN LIFE AND HERITAGE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the U.S. Post Office as one of the Nation's most enduring institutions and the role it has played in keeping our Nation states federal government responsible for providing postal service in the United States. It is one of the few agencies authorized by the United States Constitution.

Since its beginning, the U.S. Postal Service has gone through and will perhaps continue to

go through many change. However, its value of service to the American people will remain a vital part in the United States of America. Therefore, in recognizing December 4, 2025 as Postal Workers Recognition Day, we say thank you to the workers who make it happen.

COMMENDING THE ISLETA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. GABE VASQUEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Isleta Police Department and local law enforcement for their commitment to protecting New Mexico's communities. On November 17, 2025, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported a major drug bust on the Isleta Pueblo.

In coordination with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Drug Enforcement and a Homeland Security Task Force, local officers from the Isleta Police Department seized over 37,000 fentanyl pills, which were valued at nearly 1.5 million dollars, and nearly \$38,000 dollars in cash.

Those deadly pills would have devastated countless lives in our community, but today the Isleta Pueblo and New Mexico's communities are safer because of our law enforcement's hard work and dedication. Thanks to our officers' intelligence and tireless work, more New Mexican families will remain intact.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Isleta Police Department and local law enforcement for their nonstop efforts to protect our communities. We appreciate their dedication to public service and pray for their continued safety. I look forward to our continued partnership as we work to keep drugs off our streets and hold bad actors seeking to prey on our communities accountable.

HONORING THE IMMIGRANT DEFENDERS LAW CENTER WITH THE CA-37 COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Immigrant Defenders Law Center with the CA-37 Community Champion Award. Their steadfast commitment to justice has made them an essential voice for some of the most vulnerable individuals navigating our Nation's immigration system.

The Immigrant Defenders Law Center, widely known as "ImmDef," stands among our country's preeminent immigrant-rights organizations. Founded in 2015 by a team of dedicated immigration lawyers and advocates, including Co-Founder and Executive Director Lindsay Toczykowski and Director of Legal Services Mickey Donovan-Kaloust, Immigrant Defenders Law Center has led with the belief that a more just and humane system is not

only possible, but necessary to protect the due-process rights of immigrants facing deportation.

Day after day, they work with unwavering dedication to defend the 5th Amendment rights of detained immigrants and asylum seekers, ensuring that due process is not merely a promise, but a lived reality.

Earlier this year, ImmDef played a crucial role in organizing a congressional oversight visit to Adelanto Detention Center. Their initiative allowed Members of Congress to witness firsthand the conditions detainees were forced to live in. That visit sparked renewed calls for reform and strengthened the resolve of lawmakers to pursue greater protections for immigrants across our Nation.

ImmDef is currently assisting my office with an extremely troubling case involving a constituent who has gone missing in ICE custody. Their legal expertise has been indispensable as we work to uncover what occurred, locate our missing constituent, and draw attention to the potential violations he may have endured while in federal custody.

The organization's record of service is both distinguished and deeply consequential. ImmDef helped halt the unlawful deportation of 76 Guatemalan children, unaccompanied minors, who were at imminent risk of being removed from the United States without regard for their safety or their rights. Because of ImmDef's swift action, these children were afforded the due process guaranteed to them under our Constitution.

Today, ImmDef continues to stand on the front lines, pushing back against harmful federal policies and practices. They have fought in the courts, in our communities, and through rapid-response efforts that address unlawful ICE raids in real time. Their work remains a beacon of justice, compassion, and constitutional integrity in the face of tremendous challenges.

ImmDef's work keeps families together and protects communities from discriminatory practices and legislation. Their dedication reminds us to continue standing up for those with no advocates.

I am honored to recognize the work of the Immigrant Defenders Law Center. Today, we recognize ImmDef not only for their work, but for the impact they continue to make in shaping a more just and humane immigration system. I thank them for their service and look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of our vulnerable communities.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OREGONIAN

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone in American journalism: the 175th anniversary of The Oregonian, the oldest continuously published newspaper on the West Coast.

Since 1850, The Oregonian has been a vital thread in the fabric of Oregon's civic life, serving as a trusted source of information, accountability, and community connection.

Over its long history, the paper has earned eight Pulitzer Prizes, beginning with its first in

1937. That includes the distinguished 2001 Pulitzer for Public Service, awarded for its "detailed and unflinching" reporting on abuses within the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

This is a newsroom with deep roots and a wide reach. In 1922, The Oregonian launched Portland's first commercial radio station, what would eventually become KGW-TV, ushering in a new era of local broadcast journalism.

As a former student journalist, I know how powerful local reporting is. It informs. It connects. It holds the powerful accountable. And at a time when local journalism is under threat across this country, The Oregonian reminds us why it matters.

I thank the journalists, editors, photographers, and staff—past and present—for their service to our state and democracy.

I congratulate the Oregonian on 175 years, and here's to many more.

RECOGNIZING SYLVIA MARIE THORNTON ON HER 98TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to extend warm congratulations to Sylvia Marie Thornton on the occasion of her 98th birthday. Sylvia was born in Bainbridge, Georgia, on November 29, 1927, and this momentous milestone will be joyfully celebrated with her family and friends in Umatilla, Florida, on December 6, 2025.

It is my pleasure to join her loved ones in honoring Sylvia's long and admirable life and in reflecting on the profound impact she has made on all who know her. For Decades, Sylvia has exemplified steadfast dedication to her family, her community, and her church.

In 1945, Sylvia married the love of her life, Charles Howard Thornton, and embraced her calling as a pastor's wife. Together, she and Charles raised six children. She served faithfully in teaching, serving, and leading the women of the church with grace and devotion. Guided by an unwavering faith, she made it her mission to instill Godly values in her children and to encourage them to accept Christ at an early age. Her legacy continues through her son who now pastors his own church, carrying on the important work begun by his father. Today, her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren honor and love her deeply as she remains faithful to God.

I congratulate Sylvia on reaching this remarkable milestone. May God continue to pour out His abundant blessings upon her and her family. It is my honor to serve her in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, CHICAGO CHAPTER 0001

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the American Postal Workers Union is a labor

union which represents 200,000 employees and retirees of the United States Postal Service who belong to the clerk, maintenance, motor vehicle, and other services divisions. It was founded July 18, 1971 as a former clerk in the Chicago post office, beginning in 1961, prior to the APWU being organized and accepted. I congratulate the Chicago leadership in the personage of Keith Richardson, President, Diatta Grant, Director, Jackie Chambers, Vice President, and Michelle Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer.

Labor unions function in many ways to generate fair equitable wages, benefits, working conditions, and quality of life enhancements. They are the bridges between employers and employees. Without labor unions I often wonder what life in this country would be? Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank the leadership of the Chicago Local APWU 0001 for leadership well provided and a job well done.

CELEBRATING THAI INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, AAPICO announced a historic investment in Orangeburg, South Carolina of one hundred and twenty million dollars, which will create three hundred and ninety-two jobs.

AAPICO is a publicly listed tier one automotive parts manufacturer based in the Kingdom of Thailand with more than thirty years of industry experience, that excels in the production of jigs, dies, press parts, chassis frame components, cradles, plastic parts, and forged and machined components. Sodecia Aapico JV's new 400,000-square-foot facility, located in Orangeburg, will manufacture ladder frames predominately for SUV and truck model vehicles and will open in 2027.

The enduring alliance of the United States and Thailand continues to positively support the lives and economies of people in both nations. I am grateful to Ambassador Suriya Chindawongse for his continuing support of Thai relations and the U.S.-Thai Alliance Caucus, which I am grateful to Chair.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF BLAKELY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 200th anniversary of the founding of the city of Blakely, Georgia. This momentous occasion will be celebrated on December 4, 2025, in Blakely on the front lawn of City Hall. Established in 1825, Blakely, the county seat of Early County, is a community with a rich and unique history, reflecting the diverse claims and cultures that have shaped this corner of Southwest Georgia over the centuries, including Native American tribes, Spanish explorers, and English colonizers. Blakely was named in honor of Captain Johnston Blakely,

an Irish immigrant who commanded two vessels, the *Enterprise* and the *Wasp*, during the War of 1812. Captain Blakely's valor, particularly for capturing the British ship, *Reindeer*, earned him a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal, making a fitting namesake for a town that has also exhibited great resilience and determination.

Blakely, famously nicknamed the "Peanut Capital of the World," stands as a testament to the strong agricultural and natural heritage of the region. While cotton was the predominant industry before the Civil War, the area is now the top peanut-producing county in the Nation, feeding the world and contributing millions of dollars in economic impact. The city's enduring history is also preserved in sites like the magnificent Early County Courthouse, built in 1905 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Blakely is also home to significant natural and historical attractions, including the Kolomoki Mounds State Historic Park, one of the largest mound complexes in the state, and the Coheelee Creek Covered Bridge, built in 1891, which is the southernmost covered bridge in the United States.

Today, Blakely continues to be a vibrant center of community and commerce in Southwest Georgia, with institutions like the satellite campuses of Bainbridge State College and Albany Technical College serving the area. But ultimately, Blakely, Georgia is so special because of the hardworking families and individuals who call it home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me in recognizing and celebrating the city of Blakely, Georgia on its 200th birthday. I wish the people of Blakely all the best as they commemorate two centuries of history and culture.

HONORING MR. TYRONE NANCE WITH THE CA-37 CHANGEMAKER AWARD

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to award Mr. Tyrone Nance with the CA-37 Changemaker Award for his dedication to uplifting underserved and marginalized communities in Los Angeles.

Through unwavering commitment to his community, Mr. Tyrone Nance has become one of South Los Angeles' most trusted crisis-response organizers. Tyrone founded It's Bigger Than Us (IBTU) in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning with a simple act of service: making sure students had backpacks, supplies, and support during a moment of profound uncertainty. What began as a small, urgent response quickly grew into a citywide movement defined by dignity, essential resources, food access, and a deep belief that communities can rebuild when someone shows up for them.

That same spirit guided Tyrone in 2025 when Los Angeles was devastated by the Palisades and Eaton wildfires. Under his leadership, IBTU mobilized one of the largest community-powered disaster relief efforts in the region. Over just three weeks, IBTU delivered meals, emergency supplies, and coordinated

support to thousands of displaced individuals, deploying more than 3,500 volunteers and forging over 180 new partnerships to meet the overwhelming need. Tyrone then launched IBTU Relief, transforming an emergency operation into long-term recovery for families across more than 90 ZIP codes. This work culminated in the opening of The Hub—IBTU's weekly-open, trauma-informed recovery center—providing verified intake, case management, mental-health services, and high-touch distributions to families navigating the long road to stability.

Tyrone's commitment to community extends far beyond crisis. As a proud Crenshaw High School alumnus, he led the full renovation of the school's outdoor basketball courts—an investment in youth and community pride. In 2025, he joined students, families, and local leaders at the Crenshaw Court Dedication. What began as a pandemic-era backpack drive came full circle: a symbol of renewal, built at the very school that shaped him.

Across disaster relief, youth programming, and community empowerment, Tyrone has remained a national voice for equity and service. His work, which is rooted in lived experience, research, and collaboration, demonstrates what is possible when leadership meets compassion. Tyrone Nance embodies the spirit of collective care, and his impact continues to strengthen families, schools, and neighborhoods throughout California's 37th District and beyond.

It is my honor to recognize Tyrone with the CA-37 Changemaker Award. He demonstrates a high standard of commitment to service and I thank him for his impactful work.

RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO FORMER DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS KATHY ZHU

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to my former Director of Operations, Kathy Zhu of Kissimmee, Florida, for her exceptional service, tireless dedication, and unwavering commitment to the people of Texas' 13th Congressional District. Over the years, Kathy proved to be an invaluable asset to my office, where her attention to detail was crucial in my ability to represent and serve my constituents.

Kathy discovered her passion for public service in High School and was extensively involved in the Florida Federation of Teenage Republicans and the Republican Party of Florida. This passion eventually led Kathy to study Political Science at the University of Michigan, where she served as the Vice Chair for the College Republicans at the university. After graduation, Kathy moved to the Washington, D.C. area and began her career in politics, working for various organizations in event coordination and digital analysis.

In February of 2022, Kathy joined my staff as Scheduler and quickly became my Director of Operations the following year. During her time in my office, Kathy worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure the smooth and effective operation of my office. From travel,

events, and meeting coordination to office administration, she consistently demonstrated precision and professionalism. She also greatly contributed to the culture and environment of my office by bringing her dog, Moose, in on out-of-session days. While working in my office, Kathy continued her education at the Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and received a Master of Arts in Global Security Studies in May of 2025.

Kathy has returned to Michigan to continue her career in public service and is currently the Digital Strategy Director for Speaker Matt Hall in the Michigan House of Representatives, where I have no doubt that she will continue to lead and serve with purpose in this new role.

Although Kathy has moved on to new challenges, her impact on my office and on the people of Texas' 13th Congressional District continues to be felt in the work we do every day. On behalf of myself, my staff, and the constituents I proudly serve, I want to thank Kathy Zhu for her years of loyal service, her commitment to excellence, and her patriotic spirit. I wish her the very best as she continues her journey in public service.

COMMENDING THE MU MU LAMDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation commending the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on its 50th Anniversary.

Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University, stands as the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men, committed to developing leaders, promoting brotherhood and academic excellence, and providing service and advocacy for communities nationwide; and

Whereas, the mission of the fraternity is to stimulate the ambition of its members and prepare them for the greatest usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom, and dignity through scholarships, leadership, service and advocacy; and

Whereas, for fifty years, the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter has lived this mission with distinction—strengthening communities, mentoring youth, awarding scholarships, advancing civic engagement, shaping leaders, and uplifting humanity through service, advocacy, and brotherhood; and

Whereas, the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter was chartered on April 14, 1976 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, by twenty-two visionary brothers whose leadership established a lasting legacy of excellence and impact; and

Whereas, the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter has demonstrated the fraternity's motto "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All," and it aims—Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for all Mankind—through five decades of transformative programming, community partnerships, youth initiatives, and leadership development activities; and

Whereas, the chapter's Golden Anniversary in April 2026 marks a momentous milestone for the Chicagoland community and the broader fraternity; and

Whereas, the chapter's presidents from 1976 to 2026 are recognized for their dedication and leadership in advancing the mission and sustaining the chapter's legacy: Ernest Gibson (1976), Mickey S. Brown (1977), Arthur Thompson (1978), James H. Ivory (1979–1981), Walter R. Bauldrick, Sr. (1981), Clarence R. Lewis (1982–1984), Robert L. McMillian (1984–1986), Harold W. Kelly (1986–1988), Fred L. Miller (1988–1990), Roland E. Wesley (1990–1992), George A. McCrowey (1992–1994), Isaiah P. Ward (1994–1996), Austin V. Harton (1996–1998), Kenneth R. Watkins, Sr. (1998–2000), Warren G. Smith (2000–2002), Norman P. Fleming (2002–2004), Michael J. Bates (2004–2005), Undray Wilks (2005–2007), David A. Lewis (2007–2009), Rahmad D. Bauldrick, Sr. (2009–2011), Seth L. Wilson (2011–2013), Leonard C. McKinnis, Jr. (2013–2016), Eddie H. Reynolds (2016–2018), Decature Tounsel (2018–2019), David A. Lewis (2019–2020), Ashton L. Clark (2020–2022), Rahmad D. Bauldrick, Sr. (2022–2024), L. Bernard Jakes (2024–2025), and Robert O. Harris Jr. (2025–2026);

As a proud member who share brotherhood with this outstanding group of distinguished men, some of whom I met as a freshmen in college (Kenneth R. Watkins and Ernest Gibson) and one (Isiah P. Ward) who was my line brother when we joined Mu Mu Lambda.

As a member of the chapter, and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take great pride in congratulating the officers and members past and present of the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary. The chapter is commended for its steadfast commitment to the fraternity's mission and its unwavering dedication to leadership development, community upliftment, youth empowerment and social advocacy. Best wishes to all of them for their continued success, brotherhood, and impactful service for decades to come.

HONORING OFFICER JAMES "XY" BROWN

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Officer James "XY" Brown of the Jacksonville Police Department. A well-recognized icon in Onslow County, Mr. Brown, after 68 years of selfless service and dedication to the City of Jacksonville, is retiring this December.

Prior to his service to Jacksonville, he served our country in the Army during WWII. Following that, he began volunteering in 1957 with the Jacksonville Police and officially joined the force in 1971. In his devoted and generous fashion, he currently serves as a crossing guard and public service officer, helping ensure the safety of the residents and children of Onslow County. He is well known for his positive demeanor and professionalism.

Mr. Brown is currently the oldest serving police officer in the Jacksonville Police Department at a resounding 98 years old. In 2022, he was recognized by the NC Lead Project, a statewide organization whose mission is to bridge socioeconomic gaps and strengthen the community through leadership and education with a lifetime achievement award, highlighting his leadership and service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating Mr. Brown and his service to Jacksonville and the country. I thank Mr. Brown for his commitment, and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL CANFIELD

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Michael Canfield, the President and CEO of IPMI, Inc. and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Over the last 30 years, Mike's leadership built the businesses and operations of this cultural landmark owned by the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico. The Cultural Center and tribal businesses are on land that was once a boarding school, with the historical complexities that the boarding school era represents. The transformation of the land into a thriving business center, a world renowned cultural center, and a world class Native American charter school, exemplifies the possibilities when Native Americans exercise self-determination and control over their own destiny and resources. He oversaw a restructuring of the museum so that the voice that told the history of the Pueblos was Puebloan, he professionalized the historical archival work, and education department and the restaurant at the cultural center is not only a place for delicious post contact food, but also itself a teaching kitchen. The Cultural center is the most visited site in Albuquerque. The former Albuquerque Indian School campus is a place of spirited community and family.

The distinguished Legacy Circle also honors the name of Michael G. Canfield because of his work elevating IPCC to a place of national recognition. This honor exists now as he has helped create endless opportunities for Pueblo people. These visionaries to receive this honor through new IPCC estate plans ensure the strength of the culture and economic stability for generations to come.

His leadership focused on his people, the preservation and celebration of Pueblo culture. Visitors stream into the dance circle at the cultural center to watch Puebloan and other indigenous dancers from around the world share both culture heritage and creativity, where the drums reverberate under our turquoise skies. But the Indian Pueblo Marketing, Inc., which is the economic arm of the 19 Pueblos stewardship of their land now boasts two hotels, two major office buildings, restaurants and business centers. The financial return helps fund not just the cultural center activities but also the 19 Pueblos themselves, who in turn use the funds to meet their governmental needs.

I had the benefit of working with Mr. Canfield as the attorney for IPMI and can attest to the wisdom and diplomacy he brought to every board meeting, every finance discussion, and every entrepreneurial expansion he proposed. He always balanced the cultural heritage that needed to be preserved and honored and the economic opportunities that beckoned.

His impact on the IPCC and the Native American community will be remembered forever. The Pueblo people have always lived on

these lands, and their descendants have found another home at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

I am honored to recognize Mr. Canfield so history will remember his name. There is strength in culture and tradition, there are leaders we will follow to show us the way. Let Mike Canfield be remembered as one of those leaders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the first vote today due to my participation in the shadow hearing, "Kidnapped and Disappeared: Trump's Detention Abuses," where I was discussing the impacts of this administration's immigration policies on constituents in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 313.

HONORING THE IRVING PARK YMCA'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Irving Park YMCA's 100 years of service and support in Chicago's Northwest side.

Since its construction in 1925, the Irving Park YMCA has averaged 10,000 members per year assisting in youth development and serving Chicago's adult populations. Through summer camps, outdoor experiences, sports programs, life-saving swimming lessons, Leader's Club, Girls on the Run and more, the Irving Park YMCA has fostered lifelong healthy habits, leadership skills, and success for city children and teens.

The YMCA has served Chicago families by offering drop-in childcare services, FitStart, a personalized 12-week program to support wellness goals, SilverSneakers, a fitness program for older adults, affordable accommodations, and support services, promoting stability, safety, and healthy habits. Through its centennial, the Irving Park YMCA has been a hub for health, wellbeing, and youth development.

From hosting world events and international expositions in the 1920s and 1930s, to providing one of the first strength training facilities in the NFL to the Chicago Bears, to offering childcare for first responders, and essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Irving Park YMCA remains a pillar to the city of Chicago.

As the Irving Park YMCA enters its next 100 years of service, it will continue to pursue its mission to strengthen community by connecting all people to their purpose, potential, and each other.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in celebrating this remarkable contribution.

HONORING EUGENE OGASAWARA WITH THE CA-37 PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR AWARD

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Eugene Ogasawara with the CA-37 Public Service Honor Award, a dedicated public servant whose commitment has made a significant impact on the U.S. Department of State.

Eugene, a native of Los Angeles, began his career with the federal government in 2004 with the Department of State as a passport specialist at the Los Angeles passport agency. By 2008, just four years after his first day, Eugene's dedication had carried him upward—he was promoted to Supervisory Passport Specialist, marking the first of many milestones in a career defined by integrity, growth, and the respect of those around him.

From 2010 to 2019 Eugene served as a passport specialization specialist in Tucson, Arizona overseeing the passport printing contract and ensuring compliance with department standards. In 2019, the road led him home to Los Angeles once again. This time, he returned as the agency's Customer Service Program Manager, a position he has now held for more than six years. In this role, Eugene serves as both guide and bridge—shaping the agency's customer service initiatives, coordinating closely with congressional offices, and bringing the Department's work directly to the community through a wide array of outreach events.

Eugene's decision to pursue federal service was inspired by his father, who dedicated over 35 years to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. His legacy instilled in Eugene a deep appreciation for public service and the importance of serving the community with integrity.

Each step of the way, he has continued to build on a legacy rooted in service, connection, and the belief that meaningful work touches real people. Eugene's career reflects a dedication to public service and to the people of Los Angeles. His commitment ensures that the Department of State runs efficiently.

I honor Mr. Eugene Ogasawara for his exceptional service and commitment to his community and recognize the lasting impact he has made on countless individuals.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. KEVIN RYAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a longtime consummate public servant and friend, Connecticut State Representative Kevin Ryan. Representative Ryan died on November 23, 2025, after a courageous battle against cancer, surrounded in his final days by family, friends and political colleagues. He will be long remembered for his decades of public service and dedication to issues of public health and children's welfare.

Raised in Montville, Connecticut, Representative Ryan graduated from St. Bernard Boys High School before studying English and Biology at Villanova University. He went on to earn a Doctorate in Optometry and Public Health Certificate from the Pennsylvania School of Optometry and a Masters in Community Psychology from the University of New Haven.

Representative Ryan began his career in government service in 1985, when he was elected to the Montville Board of Education, where he served as Secretary for one year and Chairman for six years. In 1992, he was elected to the State House of Representatives for the 139th District, a seat to which he was re-elected 21 times, a powerful statement of how much the people of that district trusted and admired him. I had the honor to serve alongside Kevin for one term in the General Assembly on the public health committee, which I chaired, and we became friends for life. He had a shrewd understanding of the legislative process from day one, and a wicked sense of humor, which members from both sides of the aisle appreciated and enjoyed. At the State Capitol, during his tenure he served on the committees, which made a difference on the issues he cared deeply about—public health, environment, and appropriations.

Drawing on his educational background and passion for improving the lives of Connecticut's children, Representative Ryan also served on the Pilot Studies Committee. On this committee, Kevin helped address Medicaid administration and emergency medical services for Connecticut's youth and conducted a study on the proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Rights of Children. Throughout his career, Representative Ryan's legislative ability never faltered. Just this year, he sponsored multiple successful bills protecting workers' rights and increasing access to clean energy.

Ryan's service to the Montville community extended beyond his role as state representative. He was also a member of the Montville Public Safety Committee and Justice of the Peace and previously served as chair of the town's Democratic Committee. Kevin Ryan contributed to the Rotary, the Knights of Columbus, Moose Club, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, as well as the Alliance for Living Board of Directors and Eastern Connecticut Cable Television Advisory Board. He also furthered his interests in children's welfare and public safety as President of the Board of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southeast Connecticut and Chairman of the Connecticut Nuclear Energy Advisory Council.

Representative Ryan made connections with legislatures across the country. He served as Treasurer and President of the National Conference of Legislators from Gaming States, Treasurer of the Summit of Rural and Agricultural Leaders, and National Vice President of the Council of State Governments, where he also sat on the Agriculture Committee.

Representative Ryan also benefited Connecticut's communities in his private life. He provided care at the Connecticut Visual Health Center in Bridgeport and Mobile Medical Testing Service (now known as Exemplar Health Services). He was also an Adjunct Professor of Physics at the University of New Haven from 1980 until his death.

Representative Ryan earned innumerable commendations and awards, including the Distinguished State Legislature Award from the

Connecticut Psychological Association, Legislator of the Year from the Connecticut Farm Bureau, the American Lung Association's Breath of Life Award, a Public Service Award from the Connecticut Secretary of State, and Legislative Awards from the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Representative Ryan was also named Champion for Community Providers by the Connecticut Community Providers Association and received a Community Service Award from the Norwich NAACP. He was a Henry Toll Fellow and a winner of the William Fitzgerald and Senator Chris J. Dodd Awards.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Ryan's loss is felt by his colleagues in Connecticut and across the country as well as his constituents in Ledyard, Montville, and Norwich. Kevin's irreverent humor and tenacious work ethic won't soon be matched. Representative Ryan championed the needs of his constituents to his last days, proving his commitment to his constituency. Despite how monumental a chasm is left by his death; I take solace in the knowledge that Representative Ryan's memory and example are survived by the countless lives he touched through his decades of service. I ask my colleagues join me in honoring Kevin's life and legacy.

REMEMBERING FRED HAMPTON, SR. AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY IN CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, December 4, 1969 is a part of history that many Chicagoans would like to forget especially the family and friends of Fred Hampton, Sr., who was killed by Edward Hanrahan Cook County States Attorney and his band of police raiders in an apartment on W. Monroe Street. Although people were outraged and mourned they also used the atrocity as a rallying point, they agonized, they organized, they advocated, they registered people, they voted, they voted Edward Hanrahan out of office, they elected Jane Byrne, they elected Harold Washington as mayor, they projected Rev. Jesse Jackson, Lu Palmer, Nancy Jefferson, Tim Evans, Danny Davis, Bobby Rush, Mariam Stamps, Jim Compton, Rev. Ray Evans and others as leaders, they changed the culture and the history of Chicago.

As a result of the murder of Fred Hampton, the city of Chicago will never be the same. One could go so far as to say that the country will never ever again be the same. Chicago produced individuals who contributed significantly to America, especially Black America becoming what it is today.

Home of Rev. Jesse Jackson, and home of Barack Obama when he was elected President. Illinois is a progressive state, with Chicago leading the way. Not nearly as progressive as it could and should be; but much better than what it was and Chairman Fred Hampton's life and death played a great role in causing Chicago to become what it is today.

RECOGNIZING WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS JUDY HOOVER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the dedicated public service of Ms. Judy Hoover, a distinguished member of the Warminster Township Board of Supervisors who celebrated her final meeting as Secretary and Supervisor on December 4, 2025. Her six-year commitment to Warminster Township has been marked by leadership, promise to strengthening local government, and an unwavering focus on the residents of Warminster Township.

Throughout her service, Judy witnessed and helped guide Warminster through a period of transformation when the Township faced financial challenges in 2019 when she was first elected. Under her leadership and a committed Board of Supervisors, Warminster established a more stable, professional, and forward-looking municipal environment by 2025.

Judy played an influential role in decisions vital to Warminster's fiscal health and infrastructure. Highlights of her service include transforming greater expertise into local water authority and making improvements at Five Ponds Golf Course. Judy maintained the standard of being thoughtful and resident-focused in her approach to governance. Ms. Hoover has been especially proud of the work of Library Director Peter Lehu, whom she praised as "the best Library Director the township has ever had." She hopes to continue supporting the library and other community institutions in the years ahead.

Her advice to the incoming 2026 Board is to support newly elected Supervisor Mary Owens, "hold tight" to the Township's financial stability, and examine every issue with the care required to secure a better future for Warminster residents.

Beyond her elected service, Ms. Hoover has been an invaluable resource to constituents in her part-time role with the Office of State Representative Brian Munroe. In that capacity, she has assisted residents of Warminster Township and the 144th Legislative District with questions, concerns, and access to government services.

Her long professional career reflects a deep commitment to public service and organized labor. Ms. Hoover served the City of Philadelphia as a Real Property Evaluator and later as Legislative Coordinator for AFSCME District Council 47. She has held numerous AFSCME leadership roles over decades—including Business Agent, Delegate, Trustee, Steward, Legislative Coordinator, and Health & Welfare Fund Trustee and has received substantial training in fiduciary responsibilities and public employee benefit trusts.

Her community involvement has been no less impressive. Ms. Hoover has served as a Township Auditor, a Township Supervisor, and Secretary. She remains active with the Warminster Parks and Recreation Board, Friends of the Library, Friends of the Parks, and numerous nonprofit groups. She lives in the Meadow Woods section of Warminster with her two grandchildren, who attend Willowdale.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Judy Hoover. Today, we

honor her in return for all she has done for the community. Warminster Township, Bucks County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are better because of the service, dedication, and integrity that Judy Hoover has brought to every role she has held. May we wish her continued success as she remains engaged in the civic life of her community.

RECOGNIZING BYUZAND YEREMYAN

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Byuzand Yeremyan, President of Armenians of Colorado, for his exceptional dedication and steadfast commitment to our community.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mr. Yeremyan's volunteer service with Armenians of Colorado. Armenians of Colorado is a nonprofit organization devoted to preserving and promoting Armenian culture and heritage in our state.

Over the last decade, Mr. Yeremyan has devoted his time and leadership to the community, including through the establishment of the Armenian School of Colorado in 2017. Through this initiative, students learn about Armenian language, literature, history, and culture, ensuring they continue to be passed down to future generations.

Nourishing younger generations, supporting Armenian Americans in Colorado, and engaging the broader community are just a few of the ways Mr. Yeremyan shows up for Coloradans. He also previously served on the boards of the Lone Tree Arts Center Fund and the U.S. Bank Development Network, and currently contributes his time and expertise as a board member of the Coalition Against Global Genocide (COAGG).

I commend Mr. Yeremyan for years of devoted leadership, service, and commitment to the Armenian community and to the people of Colorado. His efforts embody the spirit of civic engagement and cultural stewardship.

HONORING RUBEN J. SALDAÑA

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruben J. Saldaña, a dedicated public servant whose retirement marks the culmination of thirty-seven years of distinguished service to the state of Texas and the Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Saldaña's career reflects a lifelong commitment to education, community leadership, and the advancement of opportunities for families across South Texas. A native of Mercedes, Texas, he began as a young leader in FFA and 4-H before earning degrees from Texas A&M University and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, ultimately completing his Doctor of Education at Texas A&M. His professional journey took him from the classroom to the field, serving as a science

teacher, county extension agent, project manager, and ultimately the long-serving District Extension Administrator for District 12, where he guided programs that strengthened agriculture, youth development, and community health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Saldaña earned a reputation as an innovative thinker and a builder of partnerships. He helped launch impactful AmeriCorps programs, expanded 4-H opportunities, advanced applied research for producers, strengthened local governments through collaboration, and championed diversity, civil rights compliance, and employee development within the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. His service earned statewide and national recognition, including honors from the Texas A&M Board of Regents and the Governor of Texas.

What distinguishes Dr. Saldaña most is not only his accomplishments but the heart he brought to them. He is widely respected for his integrity, his mentorship, and his steadfast commitment to the people of the Rio Grande Valley and all of Texas. His work has touched thousands of lives and will continue shaping communities long after his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Dr. Ruben J. Saldaña for his extraordinary career and to thank him for his decades of service and leadership. I wish him the very best as he begins this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING AND EXPRESSING
GRATITUDE TO FORMER CHIEF
OF STAFF BRYAN BRODY

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and express my gratitude to my former Chief of Staff, Bryan Brody of Highland Village, Texas, for his exceptional service, tireless dedication, and unwavering commitment to the people of Texas' 13th Congressional District. Bryan has been with my office since the beginning. As a trusted advisor, he helped build and lead Team Jackson from

the ground up. His leadership and insight were invaluable as we worked daily to deliver results for the constituents of Texas' 13th Congressional District.

A proud Texan through and through, Bryan graduated summa cum laude from Houston Christian University, where he was a standout both on the soccer field and in student government. During his college years, he pursued two internships on Capitol Hill, where his curiosity, dedication, and love for our Nation's values stood out.

Bryan began his career in Washington as a Staff Assistant for Senator JOHN CORNYN and quickly earned a reputation for being a hard worker who was quick on his feet. He went on to serve as a Military Legislative Correspondent for Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, where he developed a deep understanding of defense policy and America's military.

This expertise became critical when he joined my office as a Military Legislative Assistant, where his policy and procedural knowledge across both chambers of Congress helped advance key legislative victories for Sheppard Air Force Base, the Pantex Plant, and the many defense equities and military families I represent. Bryan's sharp, strategic mind was also instrumental in getting my first piece of legislation signed into law—the Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act. Whether serving as Legislative Director, Deputy Chief of Staff, and eventually my Chief of Staff, Bryan was essential in helping me become a leader on the House Armed Services, Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture Committees.

His accomplishments continue to be recognized by his alma mater, receiving the 2024 Houston Christian University Emerging Leader Award, an honor bestowed upon alumni from the past decade who have achieved early career success and made a positive impact in their communities.

Today, Bryan continues to serve our country as a Special Assistant to President Donald J. Trump. In this role, he will continue to fight for our America First agenda and the hardworking men and women of this great Nation.

Although Bryan has taken on new challenges, his impact on my office and the people

of Texas' 13th Congressional District will be felt for years to come. On behalf of myself, my staff, and the constituents I proudly serve, I want to thank Bryan Brody for his years of loyal service, his commitment to excellence, and his patriotic spirit. I wish him the very best as he continues to work diligently for the American people.

CONGRATULATING RWANDA ON
HISTORIC PEACE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to President Donald J. Trump and the governments of the Republic of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on the signing of what has been widely described as a "historic" peace agreement—brokered by the United States—to bring stability to eastern Congo and chart a new course for regional cooperation signed today at the Donald J. Trump United States Institute for Peace.

This accord, signed in Washington and set to formalize measures first agreed in June, stands out as a bold and necessary step toward ending decades of conflict that have devastated communities, displaced millions, and hindered development across the region.

The leadership displayed by Rwandan President Paul Kagame to choose dialogue over division, collaboration over conflict, deserves recognition and respect. President Trump and President Kagame's dedication to Peace is admirable and the facilitation of Rwandan Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana is appreciated.

Today, we celebrate not just a document, but a renewed hope: hope for stability, for prosperity, hope for a future where war no longer defines entire generations. I congratulate President Trump for fostering enduring peace for the region.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8493–S8519

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3342–3380, and S. Res. 529–532. **Pages S8506–08**

Measures Passed:

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision: By 49 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 632), Senate passed H.J. Res. 131, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”. **Page S8500**

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 62, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to unveil the statue of Barbara Rose Johns. **Page S8517**

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 50th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 531, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on November 29, 2025, and recognizing its transformative impact on the education of children with disabilities. **Page S8517**

Measures Indefinitely Postponed:

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision: Senate indefinitely postponed S.J. Res. 91, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to “Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision”. **Page S8500**

Measures Considered:

En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations: By 43 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 633), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Ses-

sion of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar. **Pages S8500–01**

Made In America Manufacturing Finance Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate action with respect to H.R. 3174, to increase loan limits for loans made to small manufacturers, be vitiated. **Page S8519**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States of America; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (PM–42) **Page S8505**

Chamberlin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. **Page S8503**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 4, 2025, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 8, 2025. **Page S8503**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8503**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 8, 2025. **Pages S8517–18**

Crain Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Page S8503**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. **Page S8503**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8503**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8503**

Maxwell II Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. **Page S8503**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Page S8503**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S8503**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S8503**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 57 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 634), Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be

United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. **Pages S8501, S8519**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general. **Page S8519**

Messages from the House: **Pages S8505–06**

Measures Referred: **Page S8506**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S8506**

Measures Held Over/Under Rule: **Page S8506**

Executive Communications: **Page S8506**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S8508**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8509–17**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8504–05**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—634) **Pages S8500–01**

Recess: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and recessed at 3:50 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S8517–18.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 65 public bills, H.R. 6419–6483; and 7 resolutions, H.Res. 926–932, were introduced. **Pages H5048–51**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5052–53**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4503, to improve environmental reviews and authorizations through the use of interactive, digital, and cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–392);

H.R. 573, to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with the National Environ-

mental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–393);

H.R. 3170, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–394); and

H.R. 4776, to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to clarify ambiguous provisions and facilitate a more efficient, effective, and timely environmental review process, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–395). **Page H5048**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Yancey C. Arrington, Clear Creek Community Church, League City, Texas.

Pages H5029

Oath of Office—Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee: Representative-elect Matt Van Epps presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a copy of a letter received from Mr. Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections with the Tennessee Office of the Secretary of State, indicating that, at the Special Election held on December 2, 2025, the Honorable Matt Van Epps was elected Representative to Congress for the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee.

Pages H5029–30

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Tennessee, the whole number of the House is 433.

Page H5030

Promoting Responsible Oversight To Eliminate Communist Teachings for Our Kids Act: The House passed H.R. 1069, to prohibit the availability of Federal education funds for elementary and secondary schools that receive direct or indirect support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, by a yea-and-nay vote of 247 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 313.

Pages H5032–36

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted.

Page H5032

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049), (H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to Tuesday, December 2nd.

Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act: The House passed H.R. 1049, to ensure that parents are aware of foreign influence in their child's public school, by a yea-and-nay vote of 247 yeas to 166 nays, Roll No. 314. Consideration began yesterday, December 3rd.

Pages H5036–37

H. Res. 916, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4312), (H.R. 1005), (H.R. 1049), (H.R. 1069), (H.R. 2965) and (H.R. 4305), was agreed to Tuesday, December 2nd.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 for morning-hour debate.

Page H5037

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President transmitting the National Security Strategy of the United States of America—referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Page H5037

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5035–36 and H5036–37.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IN THEIR CORNER: CREATING MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN BOXERS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “In Their Corner: Creating More Opportunities for American Boxers”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Jack and Horsford; and public witnesses.

STRATEGIC TRAJECTORIES: ASSESSING CHINA'S SPACE RISE AND THE RISKS TO U.S. LEADERSHIP

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Strategic Trajectories: Assessing China's Space Rise and the Risks to U.S. Leadership”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “119th Congress Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Schrier, Titus, Tokuda, Vasquez, Lee of Nevada, Fitzpatrick, Kaptur, Ruiz, Bishop, Stanton, Underwood, Hayes, Correa, Carbajal, Vincente Gonzalez of Texas, Stansbury, and McClellan.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, December 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Friday, December 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5:30 p.m.), Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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